DFEMS buys 2 new ambulances for Saipan. PAGE 2
Men arrested for alleged sex assault of minors. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Focus on 902 recommendations'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

> The CW-1 issue is a soufflé gone bad

In terms of finding a long-term solution to the Commonwealth's current labor dilemma, it would be better for CNMI officials to unite and focus their attention on the recommendations in the Section 902 report, according to Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

The report is already with U.S. congressional leaders, submitted to them early this year. The recommendations arose after a series of consul-

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'CHC pharmacy benefits hospital, patients'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Improved quality care, low-cost medicine, and the possibility to generate profit are some of the benefits the Commonwealth Health Center and patients could enjoy with a hospital-controlled outpatient pharmacy, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that the most important benefit the pharmacy

See CHC on Page 4

Museum director seeks help

RICHELLE ALDABE

The CNMI Museum's walls are covered with a mixture of mold, rain, and dirt that have cascaded from the ceiling because of roof damage that have not been addressed since Typhoon Soudelor.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The newly appointed director of the CNMI Museum needs help restoring the museum, now crusty with time and unrepaired roof damage.

The CNMI Museum has reached a point where it is in no state to receive guests and visitors and its director, Daniel Aquino, hopes the Legislature and the business community can help him restore some luster to the museum.

Most of the building's damage date

See MUSEUM on Page 4

SAIPAN CHECKPOINT

PO1 Justice Roque flags motorists as they go through a Department of Public Safety checkpoint along Monsignor Chalan Guerrero. "The checkpoint was not put up to intimidate or cite drivers but to…deter, detect, and identify proper use of seatbelts and car seats. It also aims to promote interaction between officer and driver to spread awareness and education." That's according to Lt. Anthony Macaranas, Traffic supervisor-in-charge.

BEA CABRERA

INSIDE

ASIA
Floods and mudslides inundate villages in Sri Lanka, killing at least 169 people.

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To characterize NATO as a huge gun club can be useful.

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"Wonder Woman" the movie rises with powerful grace above the noise.

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Local

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio K. Norita have a group photo with Cabinet members, government officials, lawmakers, and DFEMS personnel during the blessing of two new ambulances for Saipan at the Garapan fire station yesterday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DFEMS buys 2 new ambulances for Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has acquired two new ambulances, bringing to five the number of ambulances on Saipan.

The new vehicles will each be assigned at the Garapan and Koblerville fire stations.

At a blessing ceremony at the Garapan fire station yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres congratulated DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita for bringing the vehicles to the island.

"Now we will be able to provide faster services. We will also be looking for more ways to get more new ambulances and new police vehicles for our community," Torres said.

The governor said there will be a fire academy on Saipan in August and also next year.

"So we would like to encourage young men and women to partake of this… opportunity to serve our community," Torres said.

He said the ambulances cost $132,000 each.

Norita said their last purchase of an ambulance was five years ago.

Norita said they had acquired a grant for $150,000 to purchase just one ambulance. Working with Procurement and Supply and the Office of the Attorney General, Norita said the lowest bid that they found for an ambulance was $79,000. For the two ambulances, it would cost $159,000.

Norita said they went to Torres, who gave them $9,000 in Compact Impact money so they can buy two ambulances with the grant.

Norita disclosed that Torres also gave them the $18,000 to ship those ambulances from California to Saipan.

As to why DFEMS did not buy from the islands, Norita said these ambulances are specialized vehicles and not regular pickups or sedans.

With the two, Saipan now has five ambulances. One will be assigned at the Garapan fire station, while the other will be at the Koblerville fire station.

The old ambulance at Garapan will be turned over to the Kagman fire station. One ambulance will be in reserve to be used for events like July 4, XTERRA, Tagaman, and other community events.

"We have about 22 ambulance runs a day on Saipan. Koblerville station bears the brunt of it…more than half of the runs," Norita said.

There are two ambulances on Rota and also two on Tinian.

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5K Balloon Fun Run draws more than 90 participants

The inaugural Balloon Fun Run Walk and Roll took place at the Filcom Pavilion last Saturday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The inaugural Balloon Fun Run Walk and Roll took place at the Filcom Pavilion last Saturday in celebration of the 3rd Annual Women's Health Month.

The 5K Balloon Run was initiated by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau program under the Division of Pubic Health to encourage women to stay healthy and to get active.

According to event organizer Leiana Ogumoro Saures, the event offered services like blood pressure screening, iron screening, and blood sugar checkups.

Over 90 participants were present at the Balloon Run last Saturday. The event was first known as the "Walk in Her Shoes" event for two years, but was recently renamed as the "Balloon Fun Run Rock and Roll."

Participants ranged from children to teenagers, women, men, girls, and boys. Many came to support the cause and to just have fun.

The mechanism of the balloon run was that participants get a balloon at each station. Once an individual collects a required number of balloons, they are rewarded with prizes. Prizes and winners are to be announced throughout the week.

One of the runners, Commonwealth Healthcare Center's Dr. Maria Hy, told *Saipan Tribune*: "It was great, I saw men women, and families running and walking. … They also have blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, they're giving out healthy snacks, and they're even giving out car seats."

The Department of Public Safety volunteered to educate participants on child safety and care seat safety.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepare a PHA Annual Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. NMHC has completed the draft FY 2018 PHA Annual Plan and would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the FY 2018 PHA Annual Plan on July 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from May 31, 2017 through July 12, 2017; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2017 to:
   - Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
     Attn: FY 2018 PHA Annual Plan
     P.O. Box 500514
     Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the draft FY 2018 PHA Annual Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the draft FY 2018 PHA Annual Plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhcgov.net and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Men arrested for alleged sex assault of minors

Two men were arrested over the weekend for allegedly sexually abusing and assaulting two minors, while a woman was apprehended for ransacking dormitory rooms in Gualo Rai.

Joseph Mar Katmag, 43, was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Roger Garcia Mina, 48, was detained for sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Laarad Aldan Ramangmou, 22, was apprehended for burglary and theft.

Katmag, Mina, and Ramangmou were all taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for bail hearings yesterday.

» Woman caught ransacking dormitory rooms

A bail of $100,000 was imposed on Katmag, $25,000 on Mina, and $20,000 on Ramangmou.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 7 at 9am for Katmag and Mina, and on June 8 at 9am for Ramangmou.

In Katmag's case, police got a call from the Division of Youth Services staff about a sex abuse claim in Chalan Laulau. DYS staff received an anonymous call that Katmag sexually abused a 6-year-old girl last Thursday.

Police brought the girl to the Commonwealth Health Center for examination and interviewed her about the alleged incident.

In Mina's case, a police officer responded Sunday to a report about a sexual assault case involving a teenager at a home in Afetnas.

When the officer got to the house, the 17-year-old girl was crying, saying she got scared when Mina allegedly tried to enter her room twice.

The girl told police that she is scared of Mina after he slapped and squeezed her butt last April and November 2016.

With respect to Ramangmou's case, two police officers responded to a theft complaint

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Improving Pacific search and rescue capacity

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—The Seventh Pacific Regional Search and Rescue workshop in Auckland last week sought to improve coordination efforts.

Jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Maritime Organization, and co-hosted by the government of New Zealand, the objective of the workshop is to improve regional collaboration through formal protocols and communication, ensuring a uniform SAR response throughout the Pacific.

Pacific Island governments continue to be challenged by search and rescue cases, despite ongoing efforts to prevent them.

Between 2015 and early 2017, there were some 680 search and rescue cases reported in Guam, while Papua New Guinea reported 213 cases, Kiribati indicated some 86 cases, Solomon Islands reported 72 cases and Cook Islands and Tuvalu reported 25 cases. ***(SPC)***

FOCUS

From Page 1

tations and meetings between CNMI and federal government panels, led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and former Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina.

And Palacios, who was a member of the CNMI panel as the Senate Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee chair, hopes that Congress would finally act on it.

"We should focus on the… extension [of the CW-1 program] and the major provisions of [the 902 report]," he said.

Among the 902 report's recommendation is extending the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program (CW-1) by 10 more years and increasing the CW-1 cap.

The Commonwealth is expected to again experience labor problems after the CW-1 cap for fiscal year 2018 was breached last week, for the third straight fiscal year.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced on May 25 that they have already received enough number of CW-1 petitions—the 12,998 numerical limit—for transitional workers in fiscal year 2018.

Permanent status for long-term guest workers is also one of the recommendations made by both panels. The provision would give those who are eligible to gain lawful permanent resident status with a path to citizenship.

Palacios said a lot of workers under the CW-1 visa have been in the CNMI for 10 years or more and have occupied CW-1 slots. "They have kids. There are also [workers] who have kids that have graduated from college and came back here."

"It may not be a popular decision to make, but we have the pieces to these puzzle. Why don't you take this 3,000 [or more] CW-1 slots occupied by long-term 10-year [guest] residents and give them status? It would open up slots on the CW-1 cap and you could still retain the skills here."

Palacios said that almost the same thing is happening in Japan now, with the Japanese government relaxing their tight policies and bringing in foreign laborers. "There are Filipinos working in duty-free shops, which you can't see a few years ago. …It is a changing world."

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) added that Japan is realizing that their population is growing old. "And they are not having babies, the young generation doesn't want to have babies."

"The young generation prefers to work. Both men and women spend 16 hours a day working. They have no time for babies. They are trying to revive their population since they are beginning to experience shortage on labor."

'Where were the feds?'

Palacios also questioned where the federal government was when the CNMI's economy was floundering, especially after the garment industry moved to other countries that have cheaper labor costs.

"When the system collapsed, where were the feds to help us recover? …That was scary—a 64-hour payroll period and even CW-1 workers that were legal could not find full-time jobs because stores and other businesses were cutting down hours," said Palacios.

"We basically hit rock bottom. But we…picked ourselves up with our bootstraps. We have to do something about this. We're at the tail end of depression. On Sundays, you can't see many cars on the roads, because a lot of people can't afford gas."

Quitugua echoed the same sentiments. "Our people were leaving. They were leaving because life here was bad. They were either going to Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland."

"Those that we sent to school don't want to return because there is no life for them here. It doubled the impact the labor issues against our people, going away to look for better opportunities," said Quitugua.

USCIS, every year, has to reduce the numerical cap as businesses need to transition their workers to other U.S. eligible work visas. It was cut to 18,000 initially then reduced to 15,000 and to 12,998.

Things began to pick up when the Korean market arrivals started to improve. "The big factor that took us over the hump is the casino. Now, we need the manpower for this economy. Do we have the audacity to think of that? It is in the 902 report."

Palacios added that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) should have introduced a bill in U.S. House of Representatives that includes some of the recommendations made in the 902 report. "Kilili should have introduced a bill that takes the 902 component and put it in the congressional bill for long-term solution.

Old data

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said the CW-1 dilemma is a federal issue that is flawed. "To be politically correct, the formula used was flawed and the decision was flawed. The decision of federalization, and reduction of manpower and labor is based on past data, without anticipating the growth of [gross domestic product]."

"The CW-1 issue is a soufflé gone bad. Apparently, someone did not cook it right or too many chefs or the cook was listening to someone who only eats without knowing how to whip an egg."

He added those who are involved in implementing the program from the federal government did not anticipate that the CNMI economy would soon improve.

"They [feds] expected the GDP to remain downwards. The reduction of manpower was based when the CNMI's economy, back then, was going down. They did not anticipate labor demand to increase and the economy would rebound."

Igisomar said it is time for the federal government to change its policies. "Now that they have seen a change of formula, they must adjust accordingly. It was based on economic data back then. That data now has changed. It is for the best interest that they must adjust. The variables have changed."

MUSEUM

From Page 1

back to August 2015, when Typhoon Soudelor laid waste to Saipan, but the building has essentially been in need of repairs even before then. Since Soudelor, though, the roof has been leaking, the floors were completely flooded, and mold completely stains the museum's walls.

According to Aquino, the museum should be preserved because it holds many of the island's original artifacts. He said the most critical repairs that are needed are roof repairs and plumbing.

Because of its current shape, the museum is closed until repairs are made on the roof and plumbing can be addressed. According to Aquino, it's dangerous to open with the puddles of water on the floors.

Many of the paintings and artifacts that date back many years have been severely damaged by the leaks and the building mold that have accumulated over a long period of time.

Most of what is being done is maintaining the museum's surroundings. This week the Saipan's Office of the Mayor assisted Aquino with the beautification of the museum's environs.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office operations manager Joann Aquino, the task of maintaining the grounds has fallen on the office of the mayor since Daniel Aquino did not inherit any staff when he got appointed to the museum.

Daniel Aquino has one maintenance man, but he is currently on sick leave.

Daniel Aquino said he is extremely grateful to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and his field personnel who provide ground maintenance, which included tree trimming, bush cutting, water blasting, and debris removal.

According to Daniel Aquino, the museum also urgently needs air conditioning units. The museum's old AC—a 24,000 BTU split type unit—was damaged by Typhoon Soudelor. Even then, it was barely cooling the entire museum.

According to Daniel Aquino, Federal Emergency Management Agency only approved one unit, a split type 26,000 BTU unit.

Aquino, along with the CNMI Museum's board of governors, is working closely to address the pressing issues. "We are making progress and ask for the public's patience," he said.

MEN

From Page 3

at a dormitory in Gualo Rai on Sunday morning.

According to police, stolen from the rooms were cellphones, a laptop, passport, wallet, identification cards, $5,900 worth of Chinese currency, and $510 cash.

Surveillance footage led to the identification and arrest of Ramangmou.

Ramangmou's female companion was also identified. It's not clear whether the companion has been arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHC

From Page 1

will bring to the hospital and its patients is increased quality of care.

Muña said a network of information may be shared between the pharmacy and the physicians so that there is a second view from the "pharmacist who is trained to look at the patient and to determine whether the medication is really fit for the particular diagnosis."

"When you run your own pharmacy, you share your own electronic health records, or EHR. When you share EHRs, the pharmacists have access to the patient' lab results, doctor's notes, etc.," said Muña.

A pharmacists' concern is crucial to the prescription of medicine because of the concept of specialization in the medical field. Given how broad the field of medicine is, not one doctor could specialize in all medical fields. Because of this, a pharmacist may voice out recommendations to the doctor based on a patient's prior health records, creating an interaction between the professionals that could lead to overall better care.

"There is room for improvement and [with the new outpatient pharmacy] having access to patients' EHRs make things better," she said.

Reduction of cost

Muña said an outpatient pharmacy controlled by CHC significantly reduces the costs of medicines compared to other outpatient pharmacies. This, in turn, raises the continuity of care, all through the 340B Drug Discount program.

The 340B is a federal program created in 1992 that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible healthcare organizations or entities, allowing CHC to provide cheaper medicine that is accessible to all.

According to Muña, discussions on the application for the program are already underway with the Office of Pharmacy Affairs.

"When patients don't have access to medication, patients would return to CHCC as an inpatient or in [an even] worse situation," she said.

According to Muña, CHCC has records showing that one of the causes for readmissions is "because after a patient is admitted and discharged, sometimes they don't have access to medication [because of the high costs]."

"We end up giving it to them as an inpatient, which is a more costly way of doing it because the patients lack access to proper prescription medicine," she said.

There are times where patients have had to choose between "putting food on the table or buying medication. A lot of times, they chose the former."

According to Muña, the repeated return of patients as inpatients is costing CHC more.

"It costs us overtime. When we have admissions that could be managed as an outpatient, it would cost CHCC more money than having the patient be given access to medication," said Muña.

Profit for CHC

According to Muña, a CHC-controlled outpatient pharmacy could help the financial standing of CHCC in general. Through 340B, the CHC outpatient pharmacy may obtain medicine at a discounted price, allowing the pharmacy to sell medication at a cheaper price.

Muña believes that the fact that the outpatient pharmacy has access to cheaper medication is reason enough to consider it as one of the many benefits of an in-house outpatient pharmacy.

"Obviously, it's a money-maker. It makes business sense for PHI Pharmacy [the pharmacy that is currently holding the exclusive lease] to extend their lease and it also makes business sense for [CHCC] to take over and do it ourselves," she said.

PHI Pharmacy has been in CHC for 15 years. The lease is set to expire this Aug. 14.

CMS compliance

Not too many know about CHC having an inpatient pharmacy. That is because most pharmaceutical needs are supplied by PHI Pharmacy.

CHC's inpatient pharmacy is in a tiny room that has been sectioned to accommodate equipment for the production of intravenous fluids, chemotherapy medicine, and other medications.

According to Muña, the CHC inpatient pharmacy is due for remodeling due to a new Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services requirement.

The deadline to be compliant with the new CMS regulation is July 2018.

"CHCC belongs to the people. Any savings that [CHCC] makes out of cutting costs by improving quality of care goes back to the people because we could pay for other things such as medical supplies, nurse salaries, specialty care expenses, etc.," Muña said.

Aldan leads 45 graduates from Tinian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JERICA B. ALDAN
Valedictorian

PATRICIA JOY S. SAN NICOLAS
Salutatorian

A total of 45 seniors graduated from Tinian High School, the lone high school on Tinian, last week, led by class valedictorian Jerica B. Aldan.

Aldan herself looks forward to attending Clark College in the state of Washington to study psychology. She then plans to transfer to a university to double major in psychology and criminal justice, but Aldan clarified that the decision is not yet final.

"I have a feeling I might change my major, so I'll see how it plays out. I want to start off with community college because it's more financially convenient," she said.

Aldan also mentioned that she plans to serve the military through the U.S. Air Force but that remains to be seen.

"I have problems that will hinder that opportunity, so [once I address] that problem and have the chance to enlist, I will," she said.

The THS Class of 2017 salutatorian is Patricia Joy S. San Nicolas, the daughter of Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joseph Patrick San Nicolas, himself a THS alumnus and class valedictorian during his time.

The Top 10 for the Class of 2017 includes Aldan, San Nicolas, Gerald K. Crisostomo Jr., Michael Naputi, Leslie L. Guintu, Brandon B. Santos, Elton M. Hofschneider, Aira de Castro Cabahug, Peter D. Anore, and John Z. Mithnoy Jr.

Kelvin Fitial in trouble with the law anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Mixed martial arts fighter Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, who had just come off a win in a heavyweight fight on Friday, crossed paths once more with the law.

Police arrested the 34-year-old Fitial on Saturday morning for criminal mischief, breaking into a house, and disturbing the peace. He was released later that same day.

Acting police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that he does not know why Fitial was later released.

He said police investigation showed that Fitial was at the GIG Discotheque in Garapan Friday night for an after-party as he had just won his heavyweight bout at the Trench Tech: Rites of Passage 21.

At closing time at 3:15am to 3:20am Saturday, Fitial wanted to buy more alcohol, but was told that the establishment was already closed. Fitial allegedly got upset and caused a commotion by throwing objects at the bartender.

GIG security came in and escorted Fitial out. Fitial allegedly kicked a chair, causing the bartender to fall down.

As police officers were entertaining another incident in the area, Fitial walked away. When the officers turned around, Fitial was no longer there.

Tarkong said that on Saturday at 7am, an elderly woman was awakened at her home in Chinatown by the sound of someone banging on the door of the house. The woman got down and saw a "large local male with dark skin" in the room. She panicked and called 911. Police responded, met the woman, and searched the house. Police then saw a man, identified as Fitial, in the hallway and arrested him.

Fitial expressed yesterday his apology to anybody he "came across" on Saturday night.

"I just really want to say I'm sorry. Forgive me for what I have done," Fitial said. "I apologize to each one of my fans and the people of the CNMI. You guys will never hear from me doing this anymore. I will be a changed man from now on."

The MMA fighter said he understands that what he did was bad and he was just happy with his win that Friday and at the same time he drank too much.

"It's not an excuse that I drank too much. But I am willing to accept [the consequences]. Whatever they give me I will face it," he said, adding that he "blanked out."

"To all my sponsors, to all my colleagues, and to all who knows me, I'm really sorry for all what I have done," Fitial said.

In September 2011, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Fitial to seven days in prison for beating up a man in Garapan in 2010. In that case, Fitial pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal.

340 workers' comp claims in 2016

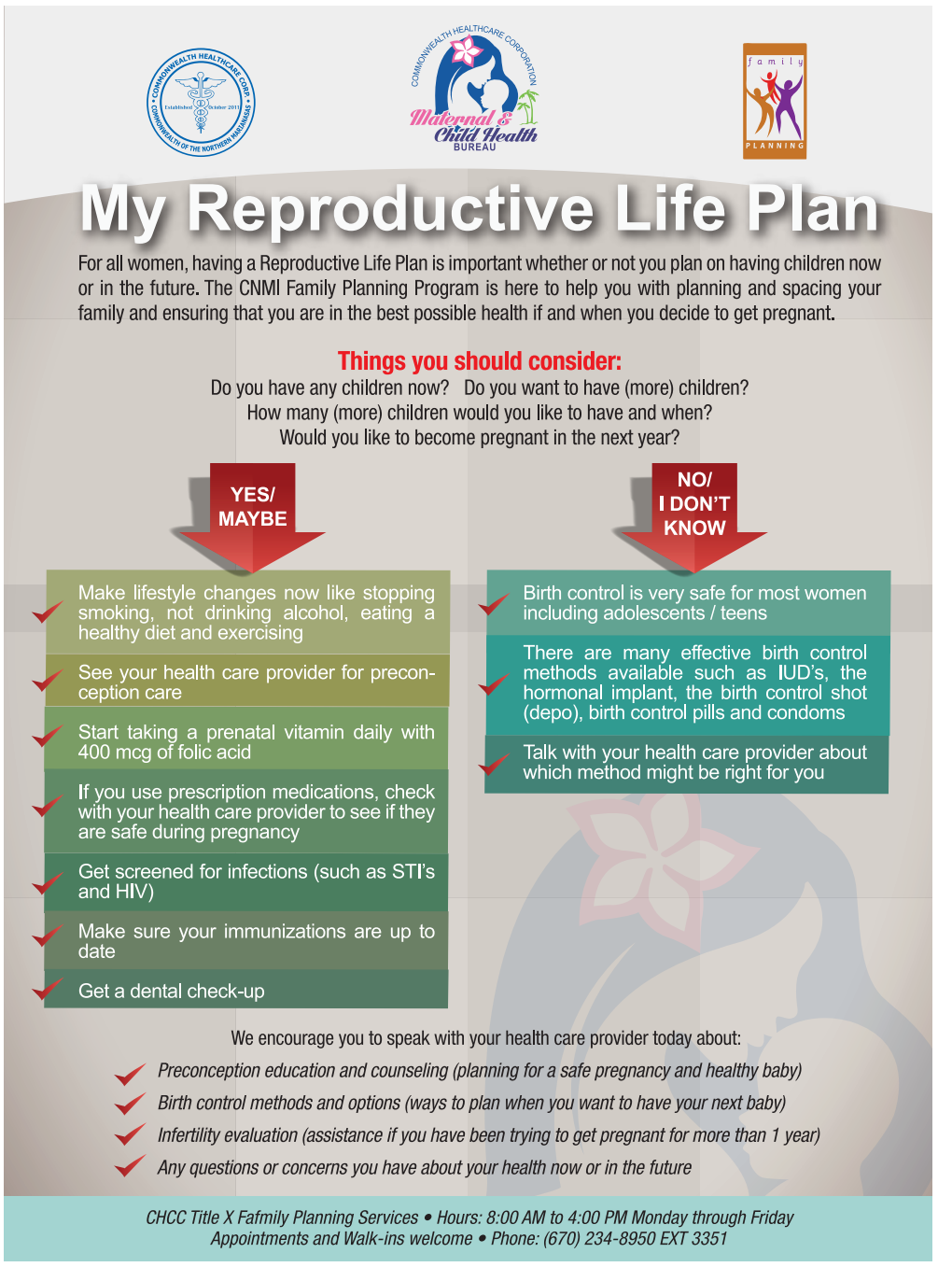
The Workers' Compensation Commission under the CNMI Department of Commerce, which receives an average of three claims a day, processed a total of 340 claims filed in 2016.

At the same time, Workers' Compensation director Frank Cabrera said the law that created the workers' compensation program, Public Law 6-93, is effective and in operation to this day. In fact, the commission is the last clearinghouse for all and any business license applicant in the CNMI. Without their approval, one cannot be issued a business license.

"You won't be able to get you business license because the law states that the secretary of Commerce shall not approve or grant certification or certificate of compliance if company is not in full compliance of the CNMI laws," said Cabrera.

He said his office makes sure that new or continuing businesses meet compliance pursuant to the statute. "So if you are a business, you need to provide worker's compensation to your employee(s) 30 days upon hiring," he said.

WCC provides financial protection to both workers and employees from work-related injuries, illness, or death. The commission, however, does not provide insurance coverage as private companies provide that. "We are like the police, so to speak. The commission is mandated to ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of program in the CNMI regardless if you are a single proprietorship or a corporation." ***(Bea Cabrera)***


My Reproductive Life Plan
For all women, having a Reproductive Life Plan is important whether or not you plan on having children now or in the future. The CNMI Family Planning Program is here to help you with planning and spacing your family and ensuring that you are in the best possible health if and when you decide to get pregnant.
Things you should consider:
Do you have any children now? Do you want to have (more) children?
How many (more) children would you like to have and when?
Would you like to become pregnant in the next year?
YES/ MAYBE
Make lifestyle changes now like stopping smoking, not drinking alcohol, eating a healthy diet and exercising
See your health care provider for preconception care
Start taking a prenatal vitamin daily with 400 mcg of folic acid
If you use prescription medications, check with your health care provider to see if they are safe during pregnancy
Get screened for infections (such as STI's and HIV)
Make sure your immunizations are up to date
Get a dental check-up
NO/ I DON'T KNOW
Birth control is very safe for most women including adolescents / teens
There are many effective birth control methods available such as IUD's, the hormonal implant, the birth control shot (depo), birth control pills and condoms
Talk with your health care provider about which method might be right for you
We encourage you to speak with your health care provider today about:
Preconception education and counseling (planning for a safe pregnancy and healthy baby)
Birth control methods and options (ways to plan when you want to have your next baby)
Infertility evaluation (assistance if you have been trying to get pregnant for more than 1 year)
Any questions or concerns you have about your health now or in the future
CHCC Title X Fafmily Planning Services • Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday
Appointments and Walk-ins welcome • Phone: (670) 234-8950 EXT 3351

CLICK-IT OR TICKET
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization
May 22 - June 04, 2017
CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT
In real life you don't get a second chance.
Car Seat Recommendations for Children
Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
BIRTH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
AGE (years)
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
SEATBELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)
A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.
Anchor. Tether. LATCH The next generation of child safety.
CNMI Department of Public Safety.
For more information call:
SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433
The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer
NHTSA NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

NMI observes Cancer Survivors Week

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, fifth left, join cancer survivors, Commonwealth Cancer Association officials, members of the Legislature, and department secretaries and other agency heads after the proclamation signing for the National Cancer Survivors Week.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog were joined yesterday on Capital Hill by members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the CNMI Legislature, Cabinet members, and several cancer survivors for the signing of a proclamation that declared May 29 to June 4 as National Cancer Survivors Week.

Marianas March Against Cancer survivor speaker Patty Cruz read the proclamation.

Torres encourages the community to come out and support the survivors. "Just being there, promoting the cause, and participating in the events."

CCA led a Paint the Villages Purple Ribbon event on Monday to kick off the week-long celebration and CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta was interviewed at KKMP yesterday before the proclamation signing.

From today until Friday, June 2, cancer survivors will be telling their stories in separate interviews at KKMP and they would be at all Joeten stores to help with the bagging of items.

On Sunday, June 4, a National Cancer Survivors Day Celebration of Life Mass will be held at the Kristo Rai Church at 8am and will be followed by the Cancer Survivors Summit/Gala at Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle from 11am to 2pm.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-033
NMC SEWER LINE UPGRADE
(S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement and upgrade of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of Northern Mariana College, Fina Sisu. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 750 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 20 LF of 10-inch force main, existing service lateral exploration work, 4-inch service lateral connections and clean-outs, installation of new concrete sewer manhole installation and abandonment of existing sewer manhole, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **200 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-033, NMC Sewer Line Upgrade"**, to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-17 (AIP PENDING)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-17"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, June 9, 2017,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor, Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opending date.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in GP 90 of the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 25, 2017

SNILD committee OKs appropriations

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation adopted two more appropriation bills and would recommend their passage.

House Local Bill 20-4, S1 and HLB 20-16 that would appropriate more than $700,000 to fund several projects.

Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.'s (R-Saipan) HLB 20-4 would re-appropriate unused funds amounting to $588,037 for Saipan.

About $150,000 would be appropriated for the Fourth of July Liberation Day festivities under the Saipan Mayor's Office.

The Liberation Day committee informed delegation that that amount is enough for their activities and whatever would be left would be returned for re-appropriation.

The Five Pillars of the Carolinian Community in the CNMI under the Carolinian Affairs Office is allocated $20,000, while the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library would get $80,000 that would be used to purchase books, a vehicle, and the tinting of their windows.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities' Commonwealth Respite Service Program was appropriated $50,000 for its operations, $39,394 will be given to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency to purchase a vehicle, while the CNMI Museum of History and Culture was allocated $55,326 for repair and maintenance.

Organizers of the 2017 CNMI Little League Baseball District Tournament, which Saipan would be hosting, is getting $8,325, while another $71,992 is appropriated for the 2017 Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Baseball Tournament.

The delegation would also contribute $25,000 for the House of Chamorros project in San Diego, California, while the Mayor of the Northern Islands would get $20,000 to fund the operations of its office.

Karidat is getting $20,000 for its operations, while the Northern Marianas Trades Institute would be receiving $48,000 so it could retire the arrears it owes the Department of Public Lands.

HLB 20-16 would re-appropriate $10,759.92 that was allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-8 and $190,000 allotted under SLL 19-23.

Learn about the use of dogs to track sewage pollution

The 29th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference next month, June 13-15, at the Saipan World Resort, will have more speakers.

A session titled "Canine Source Tracking of Water Pollutants" will showcase how environmental organizations use scent-trained canines to identify and track human sewage pollution in storm water systems and surface waters that is caused by leaking sewer lines, illicit pipe connections, and failing septic systems.

This webinar session shall explain the feasibility in using canines compared to traditional methods. The canines provide instant results, distinguish human from animal source pollution, and can track the pollution sources immediately. The two speakers for this session are Karen Reynolds and Dr. Ngaio Richards.

Reynolds is president of Environmental Canine Services LLC, which is the first company in the world to specialize in using scent trained canines to detect and track human sewage pollution in storm water and surface waters caused by leaking sewer lines, faulty septic systems, and illicit pipe connections. In addition to managing the day-to-day operations of the company and conducting training for its canines and handlers, she has worked as a canine handler with her own ECS canines, Logan and Remi, and as the on-site project manager for projects across the country for the past eight years.

Reynolds has 25 years of experience as a professional dog trainer, scenting dog canine handler, and dog sports competitor.

Richards is the forensics & field specialist at Working Dogs for Conservation. In this capacity at WD4C she has handled conservation detection dogs in numerous ecological monitoring applications.

Canine source tracking can be applied to other environmental concerns, such as invasive species, aquatic species detection, pesticide detection, disease and contaminant detection, poaching and trafficking prevention, etc.

During the 29th PIEC, more than 300 delegates from the environmental protection profession including managers, field representatives, government officials, private companies and non-profit groups are expected to be in attendance. Attendees will come from across the Pacific, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There will also be representatives from the U.S. mainland and international locations.

Registration is ongoing at https://www.regonline.com/29PIECSAIPAN. The registration fee is $50 for the three days, or $20 for one day. Conference organizers are also accepting donations and exhibitions. Information about these opportunities is available at deq.gov.mp.

For general inquiries, contact the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality at 664-8500, reinacamacho@becq.gov.mp or deq.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDMENT #01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Friday, June 2, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. Special Board Meeting – April 5, 2017
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  a. Divisional Updates
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. FY 2018 Budget
  b. 2017-2018 QAP Adoption
  c. Procurement Policy Adoption
  d. Travel Policy
  e. USDA RD Update
  f. Garapan Annex Update
V. NEW BUSINESS
  a. HOME Maximum Loan Amount
  b. HOME Supplemental Funding
  c. HFLP Loans for Review and Approval
  d. Proposed Section 18 Amendments for Section 8 Admin Plan
  e. Amendment to Mutual Consent and 2016 Carryover Allocation Agreement
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman of the Board

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-030

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, mechanical lift system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **May 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-030 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth P.E. CUC Water-Wastewater Senior Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-032

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting September 01, 2017 through August 30, 2020.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-032, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contract may be subject to the approval CPUC and will not be effective until receipt of such approval.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email antonio.castro@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Mendoza, Woodruff lead MCS promotion for 8th graders

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Mount Carmel School promoted a total of 38 8th grade students to high school last Saturday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Susupe.

Mount Carmel School promoted a total of 38 8th grade students to high school last Saturday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Susupe, with words to encourage them to make a difference as they transition to a higher grade in their education.

The valedictorian of the graduating class, Mikee Mame Mendoza, told *Saipan Tribune* that although she expects more challenges upon leveling up to high school, she will strive to stay responsible and have fun while doing so.

Besides being the class valedictorian, Mendoza also received the Principal's Award.

The Citizenship Award went to Penelope Sablan, while the Leadership Award was presented to Brandee Hunter.

Katherine Avendano Woodruff was named salutatorian of the graduating class.

According to Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, there are two kinds of people: those who make a difference and those that make excuses.

Mendoza

Woodruff

"I have found that far too many people make excuses, but not a lot of people make a difference, so ask yourself, will you make a difference, or will you make excuses?" said Deleon Guerrero.

He encouraged the graduating class to take personal responsibility (owning up to your mistakes and not making excuses), to fail forward (learn from one's mistakes and move forward), and to be different.

Deleon Guerrero urged the class to continue to grow into the better versions of themselves and to stray from following the crowd.

"Be your own unique selves, stop following the crowd," he said.

Registration open for 12th Annual United Plane Pull

» Event to benefit American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care

GUAM—Registration is now open for the 12th Annual United Plane Pull – Towing the Line to Save Lives. The event will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2017, at the United Airlines hangar in Tiyan.

The friendly competition aims to help those affected by cancer. Each team's entry fee of $600 will be evenly split between event the American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. Since 2006, the annual Plane Pull event has raised more than $290,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. Last year's event, which included 40 registered teams, raised $24,000.

"As Guam's hometown airline, United is proud to continue supporting the American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Operations Asia/Pacific. "As these event beneficiaries work toward saving lives, they continue to assist local cancer patients and work to find a cure for this disease."

Teams will compete to pull a United Boeing 737 aircraft—weighing 145,000 lbs, 129 feet long, 41 feet high and 124 feet wide—12 feet in the fastest time. The first-place team for each division will receive two United roundtrip tickets to the U.S. via Honolulu. The group that wins the Team Spirit Award will receive two United roundtrip tickets to Asia or Micronesia.

The Plane Pull event is open to the public. Family members and friends are invited to cheer and to join the fun. There will be food concessions, local entertainment and activities that the whole family can enjoy. Teams must register by Thursday, June 15, 2017. To register and to get more details, contact Ruder Integrated Marketing Strategies at contact@rimsguam.com or 635-1126. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-05
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 14, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF A BUILDING MAINTENANCE VEHICLE (Pick-up Truck) FOR THE CNMI Judiciary, Judicial Administrative Office"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO, JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY
/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ, JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-YAO-142
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 (4 FULL DOORS) PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
S/ SHELANE BORJA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-143
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
"CNMI BETTER BUILDING PRACTICES – TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 17, 2017 FROM BECQ/DCRM OFFICE OR BY EMAIL REQUEST TO EMILY NORTHROP emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE EMAILED TO emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 06, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-125
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, & INTERNET READINESS PROJECTS A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-126
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PREPARATION OF A NEW CNMI STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN: FY2017 – FY2022, A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-127
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"UPDATE & MAINTAIN CNMI HPO WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-128
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY ASESSMENT PHASE 2 A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-137
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"CNMI HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY SYSTEM, PHASE II A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-138
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR SELECTED SIGNIFICANT SITES IN THE CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"
THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.
ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

MRA makes annual pilgrimage

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group photo of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa is taken on Saturday May 27, 2017, at the Marpi memorial shrine, together with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda, and members of the 20th CNMI Legislature: Sen. Sixto Igisomar and Reps. Frank Dela Cruz, Edmund Villagomez, Greg Sablan Jr., and Joseph Lee Pan De Leon Guerrero.

Forty-five members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa, who have been coming to the Marianas for their annual pilgrimage, came back for their yearly visit.

Pacific Development, Inc., which is handling the group's visit, said that this year marked the 48th anniversary of MRA's visit to Saipan and the 40th anniversary of the group's pilgrimage to Tinian.

PDI managing director Gordon Marciano said that, since some of the MRA members are getting older and can't travel, other family members are now coming to see the places and sites where their family were born and raised.

Many of the senior members of the MRA had once lived on Saipan or Tinian.

Marciano said that families from Saipan and Tinian have been busy meeting and hosting the group.

"Most of them are being sponsored by local families whom most of our Okinawan guests remember while growing up with their parents, when they were growing up in the Marianas. They still find themselves mesmerized by their hometown today," said Marciano.

Whenever he is asked where he was born, MRA chair Kamiunten Kensei still responds that he is a "San Roque boy." Kensei was born in Matansa, San Roque, along with MRA vice chair Isa Zenki and board members Nakasone Seiji, Tomimoto Yuei, Higa Toshio, and HokamaYoshiko.

The group is accompanied by Okinawa government vice president Akamine Noburo, Okinawa Assembly secretary Fukuhara Kengo, and Nakai Takeshi of the Okinawa Peace Foundation.

"They really enjoyed both Saipan and Tinian and are looking forward to their return next year," said Marciano.

Kensei extends his appreciation to Marianas Visitor Authority managing director Chris Concepcion and for the community's continued support.

The group arrived on May 25 and held memorial services on both Saipan and Tinian on Saturday. They were scheduled to depart yesterday, May 30. ***(PR)***

Tinian son graduates from Johns Hopkins

Tinian High School graduate Nathan Manglona Quichocho, the son of Rita Manglona Daniels of Oregon and Ike Quichocho of Tinian, graduated from Johns Hopkins University on May 22 with a master's degree in Biotechnology Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.

MBEE focuses on how to bring scientific research and medical breakthroughs to patients.

Quichocho currently works as Validation Engineer I for Genentech, widely considered the founder of the biotechnology industry. It is a leader in discovering and developing medical therapies to treat patients with serious or life-threatening conditions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian High School graduate Nathan Manglona Quichocho graduates from Johns Hopkins University with a master's degree.

Genentech's notable medical breakthroughs include treatment for the deadliest type of cancers and diseases, such as colon cancer/brain tumors (Avastin), breast cancer (Herceptin), and multiple sclerosis (Ocrevus) and is currently working on treatment for Alzheimer's (Gantenerumab). ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 61st birthday to mom, Josepha Norita Sablan! May your day be filled with joy and happiness! We love you, Mom. Greeting comes from the kids!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 25th birthday shoutout to Chrishia LG-Dado, who will be celebrating her birthday today, May 31, 2017. May your day be filled with love and happiness! We love you! Greetings come from Tata and Jenjen.

June 05- July 14

Except holidays

Saipan Locations:
Tanapag Middle School
Garapan Elementary School
Oleai Elementary School
Kagman High School
WSR Elementary School
Koblerville Elementary School

Tinian Location
Tinian Junior Senior High School

Rota Locations
Sinapalo Elementary
Rita H Inos Junior Senior High School

The Summer Food Service Program, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Public School System, will provide FREE LUNCHES to children and teens at multiple public school locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

-No registration required
-Each child must take his/her own lunch
-One lunch per child per day

LOOK FOR THE SUMMER MEALS BANNER

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE
Free LUNCHES for children
18 years old and younger
SERVED HERE
11:30am-12:00pm
Call 664-3901 or 664-3902 for details

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

It is the policy of the State Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity. Applications shall be evaluated regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability, or national origin.

Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the Public School System.

POSITION/TITLE: Legal Counsel (Amendment II)
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: **PSS-2017-063**
OPENING DATE: May 16, 2017 CLOSING DATE: June 14, 2017
SALARY: PL/GRADE: **Ungraded** STEP(S): **Ungraded; $40,000.00-$70,000.00** Per Annum
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **PSS, Office of the Commissioner of Education**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from an U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least three (3) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling government contracts and/or education issues.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION:
1. COMPLETED PSS EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM;
2. COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE;
3. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS (SEALED) *MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE HR OFFICE FROM THE ACCREDITED INSTITUTION AND/OR THE NATIONAL ASSSOCIATION OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES (NACES);*
4. POLICE CLEARANCE *FROM THE MOST RECENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE (WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS);*
5. VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
6. MEDICAL CLEARANCE (ONLY REQUIRED UPON OFFER FOR EMPLOYMENT).

OTHER DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUESTED AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION (IF THE PSS DETERMINES IT TO BE APPLICABLE):
1. CERTIFICATE/LICENSE (Teaching, CPA, Bar, SPHR, etc.)
2. RESUME
3. PRAXIS SCORES
4. TRAFFICE CLEARANCE

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT CAPITOL HILL, BUILDING 1202, ISLETA COURT, SAIPAN or VIA EMAIL TO: LUCRETIA BORJA AT LUCRETIA.BORJA@CNMIPSS.ORG or MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, P.O. BOX 501370CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL. NOS. (670) 774-3824, or 664-3825 or 237-3052, 3064, or 3079.

YOUR APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The poverty 'mind-set'

There's a grain of truth and a mountain of myopia in Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson's assertion during a radio interview that having the "right mind-set" can bring a person out of poverty and the "wrong mind-set" can condemn him or her to it despite all the advantages in the world.

No doubt that talented, driven and lucky individuals can, through sheer will and hard work, lift themselves out of poverty. Dr. Carson is a prime example. He overcame enormous odds in life and rightly serves as an inspiration to many. But his moralistic view of poverty discounts the long history of injustice that makes the path out of it so difficult. Most disturbingly, Dr. Carson's view discounts the degree to which the nation's legacy of racism continues to hinder the economic prospects of blacks, Hispanics and other minority groups.

It's been a half-century since the legal barriers to economic advancement for minorities were lifted, yet the correlation between race and poverty remains unmistakable. Blacks and Hispanics are more than twice as likely as whites to meet the federal definition of poverty, and that badly undercounts the number of people who struggle to make ends meet. The racial disparity in poverty rates for children is even more stark.

Researchers at the University of Michigan's National Poverty Center sought to explain why that gap persists. Racism continues to exist, of course, whether it is overt or the result of implicit bias, but what the researchers found is that even small disadvantages in education, health, access to social networks, quality housing and so on have a cumulative and cascading effect that diminishes opportunities.

That phenomenon is readily apparent in Baltimore. The city's early efforts to segregate by race have resulted in concentrated pockets of poverty where residents live in housing that is both unaffordable and unsafe, exposing them and their children to lead paint and other environmental toxins that lead to chronic conditions such as asthma. Transportation networks that could bring them to jobs are inefficient and insufficient. Schools are both antiquated and segregated by race and class _ a well documented driver of poor academic outcomes. Access to fresh, nutritious food is severely limited.

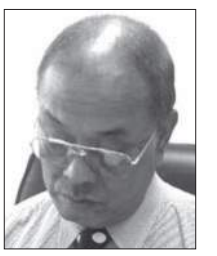
Such disadvantages feed on each other. Children raised in poverty enter school with smaller vocabularies not because their parents don't understand the importance of reading to them but because they spend far more time than more affluent parents getting to and from work, often multiple low-paying jobs, to make ends meet, and they can't afford the kind of high-quality child care that middle and upper-class families do. Chronic absenteeism isn't the result of parents who don't emphasize the importance of education, it's a product of poor health and unreliable transportation.

Dr. Carson's misconceptions about the causes of poverty are related to his oft stated belief that government assistance fosters dependency and a "poverty of spirit." In his interview this week with Armstrong Williams on SiriusXM Radio, he said such aid is merely "sustaining them in a position of poverty" but that it should instead "provide

See POVERTY on Page 11

Serimoñas Graduasion

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Ihinanau tiempu sumen chadeg piot `nai esta hit mantufai ya ayu sosopbla i memorias-ta gi santatte. Hu hahassu este `nai sige nietus yan niestas mañguentus pot serimoñas graduasion niha.

Kase 50 tantos años tatte `nai manmamokat hit gi parehu serimoñas. Siha i famaguon pot korona. Hita pot taya` muda para i okasion. Guiya ayu na tiempu `nai didog pinepble ginen tinilaikan Navy yan Interior.

I finapos estudiante gaige gi inestablesen amesta kulan inetnun familia. Inafamauleg masimientu gi entalu` niha mina` guaha sensian che`lu. Fuera de ennau, man-akilili` para i dottrina gi finagpu` eskuela. Dos patte `nai man-makreansa ni umesgaihon kareran niha mona.

I satbasion famaguon-ta gaige gi edukasion niha. `An mana`e animu libianu masoda` ginefsagan niha gi tinituhun familian niha mismu. Tat ti siña gi hilu` sinsiyu na pinetsigen chalan satbasion.

Bien felis yan congratulations para todu famaguon-ta ni manmagradua na sakan! Fan matcha sa` mangaige ham gi tatten miyu.

Sueddu: Primet na obligasion manma-elihe pot adelantun lina`la` publiku. `An ta atan haf` i asuntu, ya hululu` i fuetsan familia prumebeniyen maisa siha gi dichu nesessidat.

Natriste sa` ti este masusedi. Betsan niha finenina ma-attende de humunos de interes publiku. Esta sumeha-yu` para bai ebalua haf` na taiguine na diskuidu guaha gi halum mansabiun I Deni`.

Kau magahet na manmalefa ni pinadesin familia siha gi señgsoñg? Hafa na puntu gi hilu` este ti makomprende? Hafa na `nai mattu gi "para" i tautau mañega konsiderasion niha ya mapega ennau giya siha mismu?

Kuantu: Dispues, kuantu giya hamyu siña gumana este na sueddu gi sanhiyuñg kumu otdinariu? Guaha unu, dos, tres pat seru?

Kase guaha manpinika pot klaru hu apupunta huyuñg chatche`chu` niha gi `nos kuantos asuntun linahyan. Lau ti u fofona malabidan politika ke direchun publiku. Obligasionhu este gi proteksion tautau-ta.

Siempre in` fan mattu gi puntan chalan `nai para in`li`e klaru haf` ripotkat miyu. Kase layomug na "F" para in` fan chinatge. Dispues de ennau, tarehan mame numa`e hamyu uttimu disposision `nai u faliñgu layag miyu gi lemlem tautau.

Kuatdiba ya taya` gaseta para in` fan pinilan. Muñga sa` mama` Filipinas hit `nai i metgot la`la`, i tai nina` siña matai! Ni taimanu siempre interes i publiku u gaige gi puntan lapeshu de hemunos de "biba" `nai todu biradan miyu in` biliba lina`la` i tautau. I publiku ha sentuñgu` asuntoña!

Kuttura: Un` lahihu nietun diñga` (Bear) umeyag bailan mas. Guiya dispues gume`luye i tropa. Sige dispues mafaisen i patgon haye mañainaña. Ha menti na`anhu kumu bihuña sino grandpa.

Esta hana` mesgu` lago`hu sa` sumen magof `nai sige bumaila yan mangachoñgña ni malitratu ni iphone. Para i yomahlauña, magof pumada yan yumeñgyoñg-gue` bailan mas.

Ha kone`yu` tatte gi kantun tasin i Lali Fo` `nai sessu in`li`e este, palitu yan otru siha bailan kuttura. Ha konfitma i lahihu na manpatte ham refalawasch ya banidosuyu` nu i doble na tinatten mame kuttura yan tradision.

Apudera: Un` palabra ni ti mapot mapula` haf` sustansiaña. Guiya este `nai un` daflogue hau ni ti iyomu. Pot ihemplo: Humanau i bisinu bumakasion. Un` apudera hau ni siya siha gi kusinaña sanhiyuñg.

Choneg i asuntu guatu gi otru siha `nai basnag hau. Gi hilu` che`chu` tautau yan yine`ase` geftau intension-mu. Dispues, hinilat hau ni petsonat na interes ya un` ñega planu-mu. Hagu umapudera dispues i hagu finenina chumoneg na che`chu` yine`ase`.

Antes de umadispone che`lumu mamatkilu kulan kinilu. Magof `nai umachigu` pot inañgoghu gi offresimientun miyu. Haf` para in` sañgane dispues `an man-asuda` hamyu?

Tinailaye: Hu taitai gaseta pot kumahulu` numeron che`chu` saki yan destrosiu gi propiadat tautau yan bisnis siha guine. Este siha na malabida gaige hale`ña gi baban kinalamten ekonomia.

Siña masañgan na esta guaha adelantu. Mauleg. Lau atan

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EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Corruption on Pagan

My name is Crispin Fitipol Castro. I am the person who shot the radio, burned the fuel tanks, and broke the server and the mayor's house on the island of Pagan. I am writing this letter for the public (as well as the CNMI government) in hopes that you will understand the reasons behind my actions and are fully aware of the corruption I've had to deal with from government officials and also my battle with the government for the restoration of my ancestor's land on the island of Pagan. Hopefully, my story will push the government to address the situation for future reference and improvement so that something like this will never happen again! This is my story.

I was born on Oct. 19,1977, on the island of Saipan. Shortly after, my family moved to Pagan to reside on and take care of our family's land. We stayed on Pagan up until May 15, 1981, when Mt. Pagan erupted, forcing us to relocate back to the island of Saipan. As expected, we (the citizens of Pagan) were banned from inhabiting the island for many years because Mt. Pagan was still considered active. After years of being away, on the year 2001, my father, brothers, and I returned to the island of Pagan to reside and restore my grandfather and father's land (there were no legal documents from the government). In the year 2003 former governor Juan N. Babauta, along with KMCV news reporter Chris Nelson, visited Pagan so I welcomed them to the island. During their stay the governor referred to me as a "squatter," meaning I'm residing on and taking care of my land "for the government." This label that the former governor gave me was the government's way of saying that they have claimed my ancestor's land and the whole island of Pagan for the CNMI government. Since then, (without having success), I've been requesting the government to provide the legal documents for my family's inheritance on Pagan.

In the year 2005 I left Pagan, went to Japan, and got married. I resided in Japan for six years. Then in April 2011 I moved back to the CNMI. Francisco Jerome Aldan became the mayor of Pagan in 2014. I've decided to try and work with the government to re-establish Pagan so in May 2015 I was assigned to head fisheries (small boats). After being assigned to that position, I witnessed first hand a series of events that showed just how corrupt government officials are and how they neglected us (the residents of Pagan) by using government funds for self interest and putting their needs before ours (resident of Pagan). I am going to walk you through a series of events that ultimately led me to lose faith and totally distrust some government agencies and their officials.

In August 2015, Typhoon Champi hit the CNMI and damaged the islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan. During the Northern Islands Mayor's Office visit, the mayor's staff was using the gas that was supposed to be for the fisheries (small boats) to fuel the ATVs so they (mayor's office staff) could hunt for cows and pigs to bring back to Saipan. The ice used to freeze the meat was also purchased with government funds.

Again, in August 2015, Typhoon Soudelor hit, destroying even further the island of Pagan. I would like you to keep in mind that the Northern Islands have yet to have a "Disaster Control Act."After Typhoon Soudelor, all the breadfruit trees on Pagan were either destroyed or damaged, leaving us to rely solely on rice to go with our meals.

After Typhoon Soudelor, we contacted Homeland Security on the HF radio to request a medical evacuation for Stanley Ogo. When the ship for the medivac arrived, the Northern Island mayor (Francisco Jerome Aldan) was also onboard. When I spoke with the mayor, I told him that I need some materials to build my house and that I was willing to pay it with 10 coconut crabs for the materials, provided that he comes back for the coconut crab when it's in season. The mayor then asked me how many coconut crabs I had at that time, so I told him that I had four pieces. After that he told me that he would just take it, even though it's not the season yet, so I gave him the four pieces.

On Nov. 6, 2015, a resident of Agrihan burned a fire, signaling the U.S. Coast Guard for an SOS. For some unapparent reason, one of the mayor's staff was shooting a gun and threatening the residents of Agrihan. The mayor arrived on Nov. 10, 2015, with the helicopter, and the staff member who was in charge of the shooting was escorted on the helicopter with the police.

On Nov. 11, 2015, the supply ship came to Pagan with the mayor on board. He gave me the materials that I exchanged for the coconut crabs to build my house. He (the mayor) told me that the materials he purchased came from his own pocket. Later, while helping one of the mayor's staff build his (the mayor's) house, the staff member (Francisco Kaipat) informed me that all the materials for the mayor's house were purchased using government funds. To top it off, the rice and cans of vegetables that were delivered were divided amongst only two households.

In March 2016, the island of Pagan requested a medivac for Francisco Kaipat. We requested the helicopter coming up for Francisco Kaipat to bring our supply of rice as well. The helicopter arrived with a 50-lb sack of rice. The pilot, along with Homeland Security staff member Jesse Aldan, stayed on Pagan for two days. In those two days the rice went down to 25 lbs. While on island, Jesse requested for mayor's staff Sandy Castro to shoot four fruit bats for the governor. When the helicopter was leaving the island, I personally made a request to the mayor's staff member Gus Castro to send a charter boat within 15 days with another supply of rice. Before the helicopter left, Sandy and the pilot moved seven drums of fuel because the drums were leaking all over the place.

On April 8, 2016, I called up the Office of the Public Auditor on the radio to raise a complaint that Pagan and Alamagan needed rice. When the Office of the Public Auditor neglected to assist our needs, I radioed Homeland Security to set up a conference with the Attorney General's Office regarding the request I made to the Office of Public Auditor for rice. Homeland Security told me to call back that same day for a conference with the Attorney General's Office but when I called back I was told the AG's Office never showed up. Then the residents of Alamagan called up Homeland Security requesting to speak with the AG's Office. Again they were told to call back and again the AG's Office failed to show up for the conference. The next day, on April 14, 2016, the government was still giving us excuses and we felt neglected so I decided to take matters into my own hands in an act of desperation. That's when I took a sledgehammer and broke down the mayor's house and his car. After that I set the fuel tanks on fire to signal an SOS because we were in a state of emergency. I would like to state that, had the government responded and assisted us, I never would have done what I did. Corruption has been plaguing our government for far too long. I've witnessed the mayor use government funds to build his house and I've also seen the mayor's office staff use government money for their personal needs. Not to mention the governor requesting to hunt fruit bats for him. It' time we elect individuals who are qualified and place the needs of the people before themselves. It's the government's job to uphold our constitutional rights, not neglect them.

My final issue involves my ancestor's land on the island of Pagan. My family has resided on Pagan for many generations. When Mt. Pagan erupted on May 15, 1981, we were forced to evacuate and relocate to Saipan. As expected, no one was allowed to inhabit the island for a couples of years because the volcano was still considered active. What we didn't expect was the government claiming all the islands north of Saipan as government and public lands.

In closing I would like to ask a question. What will it take for the CNMI government agencies to abide by the laws and uphold the Constitution? If the government had fulfilled their duties, this incident would have been avoided. I sincerely hope that we take this incident as a learning experience to prevent this from happening again in the future. I would like to send my apologies and gratitude the island of Guam for all their troubles and for responding to my distress call. I am sorry for bringing Guam into this but at the same time it was the only way to get the attention that we desperately needed.

Crispin Castro
Pagan

SERIMOÑAS

From Page 10

fan kau tumunog ennau na adelantu papa` gi pottanmonedan familia siha? Kau mas pa`gu metgot fuetsan monedan familia mamahan manpresisu siha na nesessidat?

Guaha `nai in` atan manu na patte gi ekonomia `nai gaige adelantu? Haf` na mampos pot industrian turista? Kuantu pot sientu inyon natibu gi papa` payun este na industria?

Gi mismu tiempu haf` na kumahulu` presiun nesessidat gi halum este na mattiru? Kau guaha `nai in` atan haf` sumuhun kontra i tautau este na kinahulu` presiu siha? Na ti este patte gi obligasion miyu kumu representanten i tautau? Haf` mohon na taiguine este? Haf` bidan miyu para in` ayuda i publiku fuera de in` hatsan maisa sueddun miyu?

Mañaluda: Yangin taigue i publiku gi tattemu pues mauleg lokue` un` tuñgu` na na`mamahlau mañaluda gi ti tihoñgmu. Muñga ma-atrebi hau disision siha `nai un` po`lu i publiku na tiha tuñgu` asuntoña.

Pa`gu yangin un` offisiona kumuentos sin kabesa-mu ya kada ratu un` aka` hila`mu, mauleg un` eyag manaitai dispasiu pot para un` komprende sustansian haf` un` keke sañgan. Muñga ma-insutta intellihenten publiku.

POVERTY

From Page 10

the ladder of opportunity ... the mechanism that will demonstrate to them what can be done."

Yet Dr. Carson eschews the very sort of interventions that could be most effective in providing that ladder of opportunity. Dr. Carson runs a federal agency charged not only with providing people an opportunity to live in decent conditions but also to foster desegregation. It was on a path to do so during the Obama administration, when officials sought to expand programs that helped people to move to communities with more economic and educational opportunities, like a highly successful but limited effort here in Baltimore. But Dr. Carson, then a candidate for president, derided it as misguided social engineering.

The reason the War on Poverty hasn't succeeded isn't that we've done too much, it's that we've done far too little, and under Dr. Carson and President Donald Trump, we're poised to do much less. The president's budget would slash social safety net programs like food stamps and Medicare _ and cut billions from HUD. It may be dead on arrival in Congress, but Dr. Carson's remarks won't help nudge the debate in the right direction. They offer a self-serving justification for those born to advantage not to concern themselves with helping those who weren't.

We admire Dr. Carson's accomplishments and the determination he showed in overcoming the substantial obstacles he faced in life. But that story is the basis for inspiration, not sound public policy.

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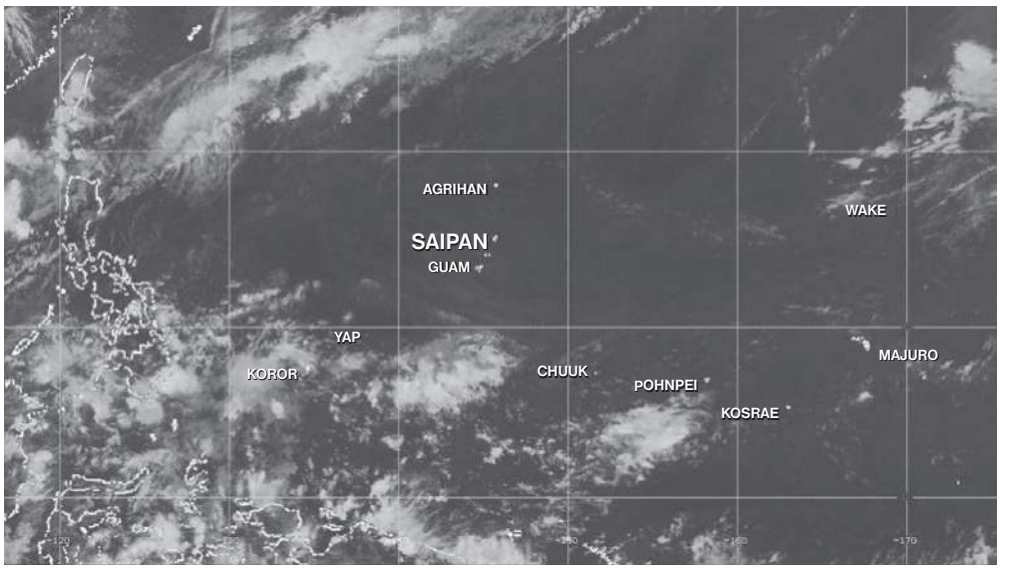
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The subtropical ridge has been pushed southward nearly into the Marianas. As a result trade winds have diminished to light to gentle. In response, seas have subsided to between 3 and 5 feet today, then between 2 and 4 feet the rest of the week. The only exception to the isolated shower rule will be Guam, where the light winds could spark island thunderstorms Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Otherwise, enjoy the fair weather and benign ocean conditions. Just watch out for the heat index, which will be 100 or even a little over. The criteria for a heat advisory is heat index of 105, and this is not expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 | 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	88 | 74 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 81 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	62 | 51 °F
Beijing	Mostly cloudy	91 | 78 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	85 | 80 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 | 74 °F
London	Partly cloudy	72 | 52 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	72 | 60 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	89 | 80 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	55 | 43 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	88 | 79 °F
New York	Cloudy	78 | 59 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	82 | 69 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	76 | 56 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	88 | 65 °F
Rome	Sunny	84 | 59 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	72 | 54 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	62 | 53 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	80 | 62 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 | 69 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	82 | 59 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.99
6:37 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
11:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.66
6:27 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:01 AM	11:56 PM	-
Thursday	11:57 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:40 AM	12:49 PM
Saturday	-	1:22 AM	1:39 PM
Sunday	-	2:02 AM	2:28 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

First women entrepreneurs workshop a success

The CNMI Women's Association and Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs inaugurated the first Women Entrepreneurs Workshop at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Thursday, May 25.

The objective of the workshop was to promote the CWA, its role and mission; establish a networking platform for international business collaboration amongst the participants; provide an opportunity for participants to gain in-depth knowledge and training in business plans, practices and development; and promote shared cultural and experiences.

"Following the success of the 4th Annual Women's Summit, we decided to organize this workshop to empower budding and aspiring women entrepreneurs with the knowledge base and skills necessary to get them started," said CWA administrator Felicidad Ogumoro-Uludong.

The workshop aimed to educate entrepreneurs through a series of lectures and special talks by guest speakers who are industry practitioners and successful entrepreneurs from the community, including: Sheryl Blanco (Swirls), Anicia Dela Cruz (independent Tupperware consultant), Jill Arenovski (owner, Creative Dreams), Leean Taitingfong (Taotao Isla organization), and Emma Perez (president, board of directors 500 Sails).

The afternoon sessions were focused on navigating the "how to" of starting and sustaining a business venture, and were led by guest speakers from the government, including: Chavel Green (NMC Business Department), Nicole Babauta (CNMI Department of Commerce), Oscar Camacho (Commonwealth Development Authority), Pauline Kapileo (Department of Revenue & Tax), and Jose C. Mafnas (Division of Customs).

Jeanette Tambakau, of the Sabah Women Entrepreneurs & Professionals Association, delivered the keynote during the afternoon session. The mission of SWEPA is to provide a platform for women entrepreneurs and professionals to network and be trained. Its vision is to bring women entrepreneurs and professionals to the forefront in the economic development of the state and nation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organizers and participants of the first Women Entrepreneurs Workshop at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe have their picture taken last Thursday, May 25.

In her keynote, Tambakau focused on crafting a new lens through which to see women empowerment and entrepreneurship. She urged participants to be in charge of the way their lives go and to follow their dreams—sometimes despite huge obstacles.

The theme of her message was shared amongst all speakers throughout the day.

For more information about future events and workshops, call 233-9411 or 233-8978 or email cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com or cwa.pmareham@gmail.com, or visit https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/

The CNMI Women's Association is funded by the Community Services Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services. ***(CWA)***

FOA's upcoming presentation of 'One Act Comedy Night with Feiffer Reflections'

The Friends of the Arts Saipan's final production of the season will feature an evening of offbeat one-act comedies linked together by short reflections on life by Jules Feiffer.

The comic one acts were written by David Ives (*Words, Words, Words* and *Time Flies*); Robert Anderson (*I'm Herbert*); and Shel Silverstein (*All Cotton*). Between one acts, you will visit the strange world of Jules Feiffer (*Feiffer's People*).

The cast will include Cherlyn Cabrera, Paul Dujua, Neil Fama, Victoria Nishida, Yuuki Nishida, Deirdre Rosete, Emma Timmons, Rinisa Torres, Kristine Wolf, and Les Wolf, under the direction of Harold Easton.

Performed at The Dolphin Theatre inside the MHS campus, the plays will run on the evenings of June 3 starting at 7pm and June 4 starting at 3pm. Tickets cost $8 for adult non-FOA member, $6 for adult FOA member, and $4 for students.

Reserve your ticket by calling Easton at 285-1657 or Frank Gibson at 287-7476 (e-mail: flgibson@yahoo.com) or pick it up by visiting the Dolphin Theatre between 10am and 1pm or between 2pm and 8pm.

For over 37 years, the Friends of the Arts has advanced the arts and cultural life of the CNMI. As a nonprofit public-benefit organization FOA has supported local artists, musicians, and staged numerous dramatic productions, as well as promoted arts access and advocacy for all the peoples of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

JUDICIARY SUMMER PRE-LAW PROGRAM 2018

Call for expression of interest

The CNMI Supreme Court plans to conduct the Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program in June-July 2018 provided there is sufficient interest from college students and graduates. The pre-law program, which will run for three weeks, provides participants with the opportunity to experience the academic life of a first year law student. Law professors will teach two introductory law courses, supplemented with legal writing and appellate argument components.

Since its inception in 1991, the successful pre-law program has seen over 32 participants obtain their juris doctor degree from law schools across the nation, and most have returned to the Northern Marianas to work as prosecutors, defense counsel, private practitioners and judges.

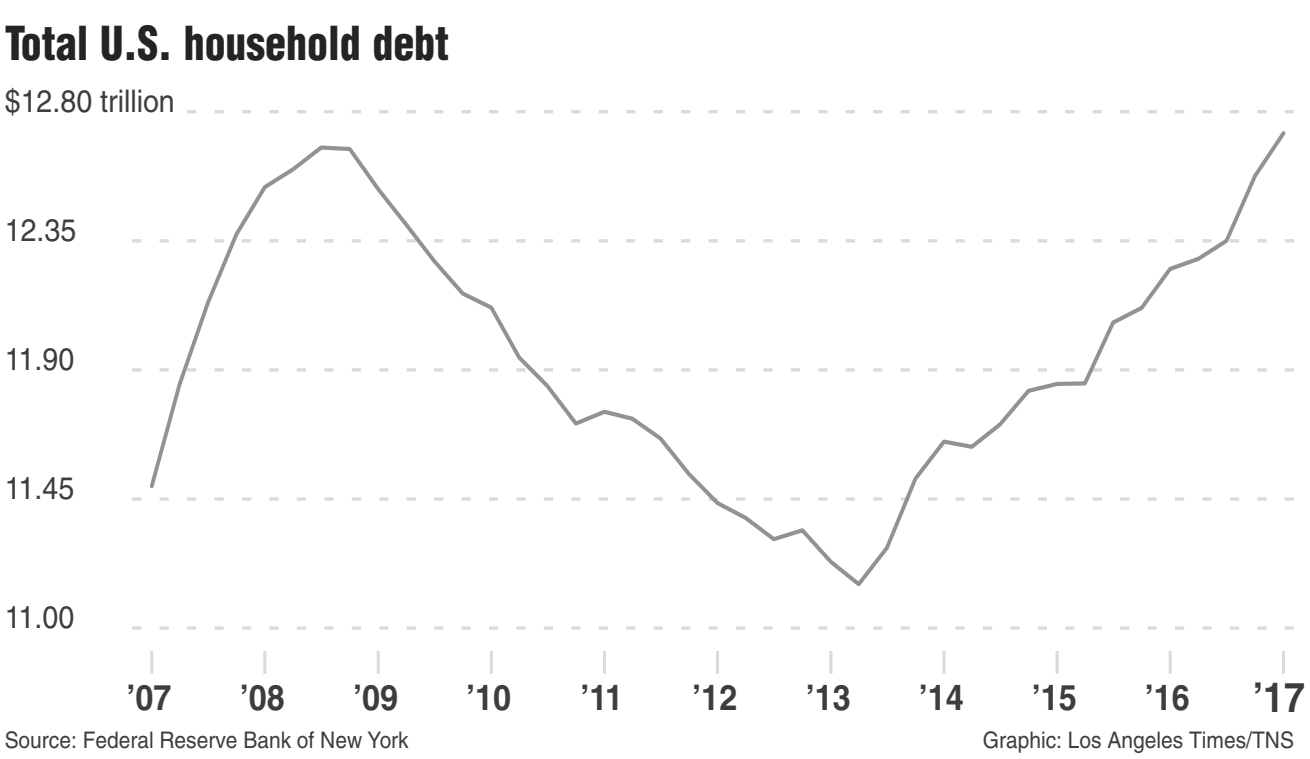
The intensive pre-law program is conducted every three to five years—the last one was held in July 2014 with 14 participants. Professor Robert J. Desiderio of the University of New Mexico School of Law and Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor of the University of California Davis School of Law taught introductory Contracts and Property. The 2014 cohort produced the following five law students and their anticipated law school graduation year:

- Anthony H. Aguon (2017) University of San Francisco School of Law *(Tinian Jr.-Sr. High School)*
- Janina Maratita (2017) Lewis & Clark Law School *(Saipan Southern High School)*
- Gretchen A. Smith (2018) University of California Davis School of Law *(Marianas High School)*
- Savana V. Manglona (2019) University of California Davis School of Law *(Mount Carmel School)*
- Carmen V. Borja (2020) University of New Mexico School of Law *(Saipan Southern High School)*

College students and graduates are encouraged to contact Martha Mendiola at the Supreme Court at martha.mendiola@justice.gov.mp, or call (670) 236-9710 for more information. ***(PR)***

Business

As Americans take on more debt, some pockets of concern



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS

NEW YORK (AP)—After a stint of frugality, Americans have returned to their borrowing ways. But are they getting into the kinds of debt trouble that lead to recessions?

U.S. consumers now owe roughly $12.73 trillion to banks and other lenders for mortgages, car loans and credit card spending, according to the New York Federal Reserve. That exceeds even the total before the last financial crisis.

Economists generally say people's willingness to borrow is a good thing, because it shows they're more confident about their financial futures. And the economy is in far better shape than a decade ago, when economists called the debt unsustainable and the housing market crashed. That's not the concern now.

"Some of us are worried that consumers are going back into old habits, but the U.S. consumer is in a much different position before the financial crisis and even before in the late 1990s," said Ryan Sweet, an economist with Moody's Analytics who is not related to the AP reporter.

Gone are the worries about second homes financed with no-money down mortgages. The stress points now are in three main categories: auto loans, credit cards and—to a greater extent but for different reasons—student loans.

"If it's not a tool you can use to build stability and long-term net worth, debt leads to more problems than it can solve," said Todd Christensen, a credit counselor with the nonprofit organization Debt Reduction Services.

STUDENT LOANS

Not all debt is considered equal, and both mortgages and student loans have typically been considered ways for people to leverage themselves into a better life. A home loan historically has been a way for middle-class Americans to build wealth, while student loans helped people get better-paying jobs.

Student loans have become a source of concern, though, as they become a greater proportion of the debt Americans owe—and those debts are not being paid back. In 2007, student loan debt was less than 5 percent of the debt Americans owned. That figure has more than doubled in 10 years to nearly 11 percent.

As college costs have risen and student loans get larger, the amounts that are delinquent have been increasing. Americans currently have $1.34 trillion in student loan debt, of which 10.98 percent is 90 or more days past due. That's up from 6.85 percent of loans 10 years ago.

"Student loans are a place to keep an eye on," Sweet said as a potential long-term problem for the U.S. economy.

Delinquent student loans can hurt a person's credit score, and affect the ability for a first-time buyer to qualify for a mortgage. That could become a bigger problem as millennials enter their prime years to become a homeowner.

Dallas resident Taylor Green, 29, is using debt strategically. Green, who works in finance, recently opened a credit card to help him and his fiancé pay for their wedding. He hopes to use the points he earns from that to then help cover the cost of a trip to Europe.

"We both have good, stable jobs with decent security, so we are a more comfortable taking on the debt," Green said. "But we want to pay this debt down as fast as we can once the wedding is over."

Green says he also has significant student loan debt, which is in forbearance, that he plans to tackle aggressively once the wedding is over.

CAR LOANS

Americans have been on a car-buying binge, as automakers sold a record 17.6 million cars last year to beat the level set a year earlier. People are also borrowing more money to buy their cars and are financing them for longer periods of time.

The average length of a new car loan is around 62 months, compared to 55 months before the Great Recession, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve. And delinquencies in auto loans have been inching higher as well. The percent of auto loans 90 or more past due has climbed for 13 straight months, to 2.30 percent of all loans. Five years ago, that figure was 1.63 percent.

Most of the delinquencies in auto loans have been concentrated around subprime borrowing, which has become more accessible to consumers in recent years. Americans with credit scores of less than 620, which is typically considered subprime or deep subprime, owe roughly $280 billion in auto loans - exceeding their pre-recession peak set in 2007, according to the New York Federal Reserve.

But economists don't believe that if those loans go bad that it would pose a risk to the U.S. economy, like subprime mortgages did in 2007. The entire auto loan industry is $1.17 trillion, compared with the $8.63 trillion mortgage market.

CREDIT CARDS

Of the three worry spots, credit cards are often seen as the most toxic of debts. They're easy to accumulate, generally used to buy non-wealth generating consumer goods and often have the highest interest rates.

Americans are carrying less credit card debt then they did before the Great Recession, but have re-embraced using them. Credit card debt has risen from $659 billion in 2014 to $746 billion last year, according to data from the New York Federal Reserve. Meanwhile, after years of trending lower, Federal Reserve data shows credit card delinquencies have reversed course and are climbing again - albeit still from relatively low levels.

Banks are seeing the same trend. JPMorgan Chase, one of the nation's biggest credit card issuers, had to set aside slightly more money to cover bad credit card debts in the most recent quarter. American Express, which historically has some of the lowest default rates because its customers tend to be well-off, also saw those rates rise slightly in its U.S. card business last quarter.

"It's worrisome, but at the same time, it was also inevitable," said Matt Schultz, senior industry analyst with Creditcards.com, a division of Bankrate.com. "There's only so much credit card debt Americans can hold before they get into trouble."

Another specter over those who are carrying higher credit card balances: interest rates.

With the economy in good shape, the Federal Reserve has started raising interest rates. But unlike mortgages, most auto loans and student loans, credit card rates are variable, and can move higher as the prime rate does. So that 15 percent rate on a credit card balance has moved up to 16 percent. How much small changes will affect people's ability to pay isn't clear, but Schultz is watching closely.

"Delinquencies will rise as interest rates rise. I don't know what the tipping point will be for the consumer is, but it's going to be fascinating to watch," he said.

Greece: Creditors must deliver on promise to lighten debt

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's finance minister insisted Monday the country had met all its reform commitments, and said it was now up to international creditors to agree on how to make Greece's debt sustainable and help the nation emerge from its financial crisis.

Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said Greece had pushed through all the required austerity measures, including pension and public administration reforms, and that it was up to the creditors—other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund—to deliver on promises to lighten the country's debt load.

Greece is hoping for a deal during a June 15 eurozone finance ministers' meeting in Luxembourg.

The main issue has been a disagreement between the eurozone and the IMF, which is not financially involved in Greece's current three-year bailout program, regarding Greece's debt.

"There is very little point in entering a (bailout) program if the goal is not to leave the program. And leaving the program should be the responsibility not just of the debtor country but the creditor country as well," Tsakalotos told journalists in Athens. "We've done our share of the deal, it's up to our creditors and the IMF to do theirs."

Germany and the Netherlands have indicated they will refuse to lend more money to Greece without the IMF's participation, while the IMF says Greece's debt must be sustainable in order for it to participate.

Athens says resolving the debt issue is crucial to its ability to attract investors and emerge from the financial crisis it has been struggling through since late 2009.

The IMF argues that the eurozone forecasts underpinning the Greek bailout are too optimistic and that the country needs debt restructuring so it can start growing on a sustainable basis. Greece has wallowed through an economic depression that's seen its economy shrink by a quarter and unemployment and poverty spiral.

The eurozone has ruled out any debt write-off for Greece, but has indicated that extending Greece's repayment periods or reducing the interest rates on its loans are possible at the conclusion of the bailout next year.

Athens argues that the delays are now due entirely to disagreements between the IMF and the European creditors.

The finance minister said there were "no excuses for not getting this overall deal that the Greek economy so desperately needs in its efforts to access the markets and therefore to be able to leave the program as planned in the summer of 2018."

Eurozone's top banker: stimulus needed despite higher growth

BRUSSELS (AP)—The head of the European Central Bank says while the economy of the 19-nation eurozone is improving, it still needs substantial stimulus.

At a parliamentary hearing Monday in Brussels, Mario Draghi said "the economic upswing is becoming increasingly solid and continues to broaden across sectors and countries."

However, he says, wages are not growing enough to push inflation back up to healthy levels.

Draghi says "overall, we remain firmly convinced that an extraordinary amount of monetary support ... is still necessary."

The ECB is pumping 60 billion euros ($67 billion) a month into the eurozone economy to support lending and growth. Whether it signals a tapering off in that program will be the focus of its next meeting on June 8.

Nation

Trump honors fallen and families in Memorial Day address

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—President Donald Trump on Monday expressed the nation's "boundless" gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice paid by Americans defending the United States, dedicating his first Memorial Day address as commander in chief to a top Cabinet secretary and two other families who lost loved ones.

Participating in the somber, annual observance at Arlington National Cemetery, Trump recounted the stories of Green Beret Capt. Andrew D. Byers of Colorado Springs and Christopher D. Horton of the Oklahoma National Guard as Byers' tearful parents and Horton's emotional widow looked on.

Trump also singled out for special mention Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, a retired Marine four-star general whose son, Marine 2nd Lt. Robert M. Kelly, was killed in November 2010 after he stepped on a land mine while on patrol in southern Afghanistan.

To all Gold Star families, Trump said of their lost service members: "They each had their own names, their own stories, their own beautiful dreams. But they were all angels sent to us by God and they all share one title in common and that is the title of hero, real heroes."

"Though they were here only a brief time before God called them home, their legacy will endure forever," Trump said.

AP

President Donald Trump lays a wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Solider at Arlington National Cemetery, Monday, May 29, 2017, in Arlington, Va.

Horton, a sniper sent to Afghanistan in 2011, died in a gun battle with the Taliban near the Pakistan border three months into his deployment. Byers was on his third combat tour and, Trump said, ran through smoke and a hail of bullets to rescue an Afghan soldier when he was killed last November.

Secretary Kelly's other son, Johnny, is getting ready for his fifth military deployment. A son-in-law, Jake, is a wounded warrior.

Trump also recognized former U.S. senator and GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole, 93, who suffered lifelong injuries during World War II. He attended the ceremony along with his wife, Elizabeth Dole, also a former U.S. senator.

"As we honor the brave warriors who gave their lives for ours, spending their last moments on this earth in defense of this country and of its people, words cannot measure the depth of their devotion, the purity of their love or the totality of their courage," Trump said.

"We only hope that every day we can prove worthy not only of their sacrifice and service, but of the sacrifice made by the families and loved ones they left behind. Special, special people," he said.

Before the remarks, Trump laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, touching it for a long moment before stepping away. He then rested his hand on his heart as a bugler played "Taps."

Stepping to the microphone to deliver the address, Trump seemed to relish the warm welcome from the audience gathered in the sun-splashed amphitheater. Trump has been feeling particularly aggrieved in recent weeks by federal and congressional investigations into contacts between his associates and Russian government officials, including news reports that Jared Kushner, his son-in-law and top White House adviser, proposed establishing secret back-channel communications with Russia during the presidential transition.

The president was accompanied to Arlington cemetery by Vice President Mike Pence, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as a slew of advisers and Cabinet members, including veterans' secretary David Shulkin and housing secretary Ben Carson.

After the address, Trump visited a section of the cemetery for U.S. service members killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The White House said Trump visited the gravesite of Robert Kelly, who was laid to rest in Section 60.

Protest sparks Texas lawmaker threats of gun violence

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Hundreds of protesters opposing Texas' tough new anti-"sanctuary cities" law launched a raucous demonstration from the public gallery in the Texas House on Monday, briefly halting work and prompting lawmakers on the floor below to scuffle—and even threaten gun violence—as tense divides over hardline immigration policies boiled over.

Activists wearing red T-shirts reading "Lucha," or "Fight," quietly filled hundreds of gallery seats as proceedings began. After about 40 minutes, they began to cheer, drowning out the lawmakers below. Protesters also blew whistles and chanted: "Here to stay!" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, SB4 has got to go," referring to the bill that Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law this month.

Some unfurled banners reading: "See you in court!" and "See you at the polls!"

State House leadership stopped the session and asked state troopers to clear the gallery. The demonstration continued for about 20 minutes as officers led people out of the chamber peacefully in small groups. There were no reports of arrests.

Texas' new law is reminiscent of a 2010 Arizona "show your papers" measure that allowed police to inquire about a person's immigration status during routine interactions such as traffic stops. It was eventually struck down in court.

A legislative session that began in January concluded Monday, and the day was supposed to be reserved for goofy group photos and sappy goodbyes. Lawmakers are constitutionally barred from approving most legislation on the last day.

But even after the protest ended, tensions remained high. Rep. Ramon Romero, a Democrat from Fort Worth, said he was standing with fellow Democratic Rep. Cesar Blanco of El Paso when Republican colleague Matt Rinaldi came over and said: "This is BS. That's why I called ICE."

Rinaldi, of Irving in suburban Dallas, and Blanco then began shouting at each other. A scuffle nearly ensued before other lawmakers separated the two.

Later, a group of Democratic lawmakers held a press conference to accuse Rinaldi of threatening to "put a bullet in the head" of someone on the House floor during a second near scuffle. They said the comment was made in the direction of Democratic Rep. Poncho Nevarez, from the border town of Eagle Pass.

In a subsequent Facebook statement, Rinaldi admitted saying he'd called federal authorities and threatened to shoot Nevarez—but said his life was in danger, not the other way around.

Ultimate sacrifice: Teen dies shielding cousin from gunfire

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. (AP)—It was after midnight when a gunman burst into the living room of a southern Mississippi home where young people were playing video games.

Caleb Edwards, 15, said the man—whom he knows as Corey Godbolt—demanded to know where his cousin's parents where. Jordan Blackwell, 18, said they were gone to another town.

At that, Godbolt "just started shooting," Caleb said.

As people scrambled to hide inside the Brookhaven home, Blackwell used his own body to shield his cousin Caleb from the gunfire.

With his mother standing by his side Monday, Caleb spoke calmly as he recounted to The Associated Press how he felt the force of the impact as Blackwell was shot Sunday.

"He loved me enough to take some bullets for me," Caleb said.

Caleb's 11-year-old brother, Austin Edwards, was also shot to death in that living room early Sunday. They were among the eight people killed in three houses in a rampage that started late Saturday after law enforcement officers were called about a domestic dispute. A deputy sheriff was among those killed. The other seven were all relatives or acquaintances of the accused shooter.

Investigators said Willie Corey Godbolt, 35, will be charged with one count of capital murder and seven counts of first degree murder. Mississippi Bureau of Investigation spokesman Warren Strain said the charges could change as the investigation continues.

Godbolt was hospitalized for a gunshot wound and was in good condition Monday; it wasn't clear who shot him. He could make an initial court appearance Tuesday.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation identified some of those killed as: Barbara Mitchell, 55; Brenda May, 53; Tocarra May, 35; Ferral Burage, 45; and Shelia Burage, 46; and deputy William Durr, 36. The parents of Austin Edwards and Jordan Blackwell identified their sons as the other victims.

Brookhaven is a south Mississippi city surrounded by pine trees and rolling green pastures. The outbreak of violence has shaken the county of 34,500 residents.

More than a dozen people stood in the driveway of Edwards' and Blackwell's grandparents Monday afternoon and joined hands for prayer.

"We need you, oh God, to be with this family in their grief," said Richard Thomas, pastor of New Home Church of Christ Holiness.

Jordan Blackwell played linebacker for the Brookhaven High football team. As he prepared for his senior year, two universities and a nearby community college had already expressed interest in him, said his mother, Tiffany Blackwell. She and her husband, Shon, described their son as cheerful and unselfish. She said Jordan dreamed of getting a Camaro for high school graduation.

Asia

Sri Lankan soldiers recover more bodies from mudslides

PELMADULLA, Sri Lanka (AP)—A group of Sri Lankan soldiers carried a body wrapped in a tarpaulin to police for identification, while others dug Monday through piles of mud, unearthing a motorbike, pieces of furniture and clothes, the only signs of eight homes that stood on Kiribathgala Hill just a few days ago.

Helicopters searched elsewhere for people still marooned after rain-triggered floods and mudslides inundated villages last Thursday, killing at least 169 people and leaving 102 others missing, officials say.

The rains caused part of Kiribathgala Hill to come crashing down, burying the houses and their 18 inhabitants under huge rocks, mud and fallen coconut trees. Soldiers have recovered 15 bodies, including those of two women and a child dug out on Monday.

The hill in Sri Lanka's Ratnapura district, known for gems and precious stones, is 120 kilometers (75 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo. Most residents make their living by tending small plots of tea or spices, or by working in nearby gem mines.

With more rain expected later Monday, rescuers raced to evacuate villagers from the most vulnerable areas. Already more than 75,000 people have taken shelter in 337 relief camps set up in the south and west.

An air force helicopter on a relief mission crash-landed near Baddegama town in the south on Monday. All 11 people onboard escaped unhurt. Earlier, an airman died after falling while trying to rescue a marooned person from the air.

Army boats skimmed along water-filled village streets, while flood victims waded through the brackish waters to army trucks carrying relief supplies.

"We are displaced and have no place to go," said Rathana Kumari, who fled her flooded home with her family and took refuge on the Southern Expressway, a highway linking Colombo with the cities of Matara and Galle. "Now we are extremely helpless with our little children. ... Today, we didn't get anything to eat."

Medical teams have been dispatched to affected areas, and medicines have been sent by air to hospitals unreachable by road, said Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathna.

Soldiers took advantage of a lull in the rain Sunday to clear roads to reach some flooded areas, said Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe, who is heading the search and rescue mission.

AP

Sri Lankan soldiers help with rescue work at the site of a mudslide in Kiribathgala village in Ratnapura district, Sri Lanka, Monday, May 29, 2017.

City clash fuels fear of IS foothold in southern PH

MARAWI, Philippines (AP)—Militants who have laid siege to a southern Philippines city had been planning a spate of attacks during the holy month of Ramadan to earn recognition as a regional branch of the Islamic State group, the military said Tuesday.

Soldiers have taken control of about 70 percent of Marawi, where the gunmen have been fending off the army for a week, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said.

"They wanted to show the world that there is an ISIS branch here which can inflict the kind of violence that has been seen in Syria and Iraq," Ano told The Associated Press, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

The violence followed an unsuccessful army raid that attempted to capture militant commander Isnilon Hapilon, who has been designated by the Islamic State group as its leader in the Philippines.

Hapilon escaped and gunmen loyal to him besieged this mostly Muslim city of 200,000 people, torching buildings and taking hostages. Ano said the gunmen were prepared to fight because of their Ramadan attack plot.

Over the past week, the fighters have shown their muscle, withstanding a sustained assault by the Philippine military and increasing fears that the Islamic State group's violent ideology is gaining a foothold in this country's restive southern islands, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the south through mid-July.

The army insists the drawn-out fight is not a true sign of the militants' strength, and that the military has held back to spare civilians' lives.

As of Tuesday morning, Ano said the military, working house-by-house, had cleared 70 percent of the city and the remaining militants were isolated.

Still, the fighters have turned out to be remarkably well-armed and resilient.

In recent years, small militant groups in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia have begun unifying under the banner of the Islamic State group. Jose Calida, the top Philippine prosecutor, said last week that the violence on the large southern island of Mindanao "is no longer a rebellion of Filipino citizens."

Three Malaysians, an Indonesian and possibly Arab extremists have been killed in the Marawi fighting, Ano said, citing the latest intelligence on the matter. He said Hapilon was still hiding somewhere in the city and that authorities were working to confirm another top militant had been killed.

Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism expert at Singapore's S. Rarajatnam School of International Studies, said the fighting in Marawi, along with smaller battles elsewhere in the southern Philippines, may be precursors to declaring a province, which would be "a huge success for the terrorists."

Last week, two suicide bombings in Jakarta, Indonesia, killed three police officers, an attack claimed by IS. While Indonesia has been fighting local militants since 2002, the rise of the Islamic State group has breathed new life into those militant networks and raised concern about the risk of Indonesian fighters returning home from the Middle East.

Experts have warned that as IS is weakened in Syria and Iraq, battered by years of American-led attacks, Mindanao could become a focal point for regional fighters.

Southeast Asian fighters fleeing the Middle East "could look to Mindanao to provide temporary refuge as they work their way home," said a report late last year by the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, predicting a high risk of regional violence. Marawi is regarded as the heartland of the Islamic faith on Mindanao island.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm hits Bangladesh, destroying hundreds of homes

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—A tropical storm lashed southern Bangladesh on Tuesday, destroying hundreds of poorly built homes in some remote islands in the Bay of Bengal, officials said. No casualties were immediately reported. Tropical Storm Mora started crossing the country's southern coastal region early in the day. Some 300,000 people had been moved to safety or were evacuated on Monday as the delta nation braced for its first strong storm of the year, with more than 1,000 shelters set up in several districts, including Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. More than 20,000 volunteers were on hand. Cox's Bazar's chief government administrator, Ali Hossain, said the storm destroyed hundreds of homes on Saint Martins Island after it started hitting the area around midnight Monday. Saint Martins public representative Nur Ahmed said strong winds flattened many homes. About 8,000 residents moved to storm shelters and hotels. "We have no news of any casualties in the area so far," he said.

Australia to ban pedophiles from traveling overseas

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia plans to ban convicted pedophiles from traveling overseas in what the government says is a world-first move to protect vulnerable children in Southeast Asia from exploitation. Australian pedophiles are notorious for taking inexpensive vacations to nearby Southeast Asian and Pacific island countries to abuse children there. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Tuesday she would cancel the passports of around 20,000 pedophiles on the national child sex offender register under legislation that will be introduced to Parliament soon. Justice Minister Michael Keenan says no country has introduced such a travel ban. He says 2,500 new convicted pedophiles will be added to the sex offender register each year and will lose their passports.

Kim Jong Nam murder suspect asks her parents to pray for her

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A suspect in the poisoning death of the North Korean leader's half brother has written to her parents from jail, asking them to pray for her but saying "don't think about me too much." Siti Aisyah, an Indonesian, appeared in court Tuesday along with a second suspect, Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam. Their case was formally transferred to the High Court as the lower court had no jurisdiction to hear a murder case. The two women are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face at the Kuala Lumpur airport on Feb. 13. Kim died soon afterward. The women have said they were duped into thinking they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show. Yusron Ambary, counsellor at the Indonesian Embassy, said Siti wrote a letter to her parents recently, asking them not to worry about her. "I am in good health. Just pray. Don't think about me too much. Keep healthy and pray at night. I have a lot of people helping me. The embassy officials always come to see me, my lawyers also. Don't worry. Pray for me so that the case will be over soon and I can go back home. Send my love to my son Rio," he read from the letter to reporters outside the courtroom.

World

Manchester police seek clues in concert bomber's suitcase

LONDON (AP)—Police in Manchester, England issued a picture of the arena suicide bomber holding a blue suitcase and asked anyone who might have seen him with it before the attack to call a confidential hotline.

Counter-terrorism squads are trying to re-create Salman Abedi's movements in the days before he detonated a bomb at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, killing 22 people. Police believe Abedi had the wheeled suitcase with him at two locations in Manchester.

The suitcase was not used in the attack, which was carried out when Abedi detonated an improvised bomb minutes after the concert ended, Greater Manchester Police Detective Chief Superintendent Russ Jackson said.

Jackson tried to reassure nervous residents of Manchester that the bag does not pose a risk to public safety. But if any members of the public find it, they should not approach it, but call police immediately, he said.

"We have no reason to believe the case and its contents contain anything dangerous, but would ask people to be cautious," Jackson said.

He said Abedi may have had the blue suitcase with him when he visited the Wilmslow Road area and the Manchester city center in the days before the blast.

"Did you see Abedi with this suitcase between the 18 and 22 May 2017? Where did you see him with it during that time?" Jackson said.

The bombing investigation expanded early Monday when police arrested a 23-year-old man on the south coast of England, hundreds of miles south of Manchester.

Greater Manchester Police said the man was arrested in Shoreham-by-Sea on suspicion of terrorism offenses and an address there was being searched.

The arrest means that 14 men are now in custody in Britain for suspected roles in Britain's worst attack in a decade.

The suspects have not been identified or charged. All are being held on suspicion of violating the Terrorism Act.

Police and security services have said very little about the network believed to be behind Abedi, a Manchester native whose parents had moved to Britain from Libya. Abedi's elder brother Ismail is among the suspects being held in Britain, and a younger brother and Abedi's father have been detained in Libya.

This is a handout photo taken on Monday, May 22, 2017 from CCTV and issued on Monday, May 29, 2017 by Greater Manchester Police of Salman Abedi in an unknown location of the city centre in Manchester, England.

AP

Britain's intelligence services have launched an inquiry into how warnings about the 22-year-old Abedi's radical views were handled amid indications that vital warning signs were missed.

Police are scouring 12,960 hours of closed circuit TV recordings in their search for clues, have collected more than 630 pieces of evidence and have searched 21 addresses.

Authorities say Abedi returned to Britain from Libya on May 18, and likely completed assembling his bomb at a rented apartment in central Manchester.

Britain's official terror threat level was set at "critical" in the days after the attack but was downgraded Saturday to "severe." The country remains on high alert, however, as officials caution that some suspects who helped Abedi may still be at large.

French president flexes diplomatic muscles in Putin meeting

VERSAILLES, France (AP)—Flexing his diplomatic muscles, French President Emmanuel Macron said he had "extremely frank" and "direct" talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and launched an extraordinary attack on two state-funded Russian media outlets he accused of spreading "lying propaganda" during France's presidential campaign.

Macron's full-on blast at the state news agency Sputnik and broadcaster Russia Today came at a news conference with Putin standing at his side. His comments underscored the clear differences between the two men on multiple issues and fulfilled the French president's campaign promises to pull no punches with Russia when needed.

But after more than two hours of meetings—their first since Macron's May 7 election and longer than scheduled—both leaders also signaled a shared desire not to let disagreements define their fledgling relationship. The fight against terrorism, in particular, appeared to offer common ground.

Putin said Macron proposed a framework for French and Russian anti-terror experts to meet and work together. And both leaders agreed they don't want Syria—where Russia is propping up the government of President Bashar Assad—to collapse into a failed state.

Progress in Syria "will happen by a joint effort, which today we laid the foundations for," Macron said.

Speaking through a translator, Putin said the two countries were "totally capable of trying to progress together" on world affairs.

"What unites us allows us to hope that the possibility exists to improve our ties," he added later.

But there was no disguising the rifts.

Macron said he spoke to Putin about LGBT rights in the Russian republic of Chechnya and about the rights of embattled non-governmental organizations in Russia, vowing to be "vigilant" on these issues. Earlier Monday, human rights activists protesting near the Eiffel Tower displayed a banner that said, "Stop homophobia in Chechnya."

Any use of chemical weapons in Syria is a "red line" for France and would be met by "reprisals" and an "immediate riposte" from the government, Macron said.

He did not specify the form of such reprisals, but France flies warplanes over Syria and Iraq, striking Islamic State targets as part of an international coalition.

On Sputnik and Russia Today, Macron showed little restraint, saying the two organizations spread "untruths about me and my campaign" during the French election.

"I will not give an inch on this," he said. "Russia Today and Sputnik ... behaved as organs of influence, of propaganda, of lying propaganda."

Putin, seemingly unfazed, pushed back any suggestion that Russia sought to influence the election. Russian meddling became a concern in France after allegations that Russia sought to interfere in the U.S. presidential contest that elected Donald Trump and after a document leak hit Macron's campaign in the final hours of the French race.

Putin also hosted Macron's far-right rival, Marine Le Pen, at the Kremlin in March. On Monday, he defended that gesture as simple good manners, saying it would have been strange to rebuff Le Pen's Russia-friendly overtures.

"That doesn't mean that we tried to influence the results of the election. Besides, that is almost impossible," he said.

Macron was the first Western leader to speak to Putin after the Group of Seven summit the French leader attended over the weekend, where relations with Russia were a key topic. These first forays into world diplomacy by the French president who has never before held elected office have shown the 39-year-old to be a quick learner and self-confident, willing to take the calculated risk of voicing firm views on thorny issues.

Macron portrayed the Putin meeting as just a first step in resetting relations with Russia.

"Big things are built over time," he said. "It was an exchange that was extremely frank, direct, with a lot of things that were said."

"We have disagreements, but at least we talked about them," he added.

After the deterioration in ties under Macron's predecessor, Socialist Francois Hollande, Putin expressed the hope that in Macron and his team there will be "more people who understand us."

The body language Monday was good. Their first handshakes—relatively brief and cordial—were far less macho than Macron's now-famous who-will-blink-first handshake showdown with Trump when the two leaders met last week for the first time. Macron and Putin also hugged goodbye and shook hands, both smiling, after ending their meetings with a visit to an exhibit about the 300th anniversary of Russian Czar Peter the Great's trip to Paris.

The venue for the exhibit and Putin's visit was the sumptuous Palace of Versailles, west of Paris. Putin seemed wowed, saying he was "very impressed by the grandeur of France, by its history."

The news conference was held in the palace's largest room, the Gallery of Great Battles, which celebrates 14 centuries of French military successes.

Macron, almost lecturing Putin, couldn't resist the opportunity to hammer home a message.

"These military victories," he said, "should never make us forget that they were always the result of lack of understanding."

WORLD BRIEFS

Bomb kills 13, hurts 24 in Baghdad; IS claims responsibility

BAGHDAD (AP)—A car bomb exploded outside a popular ice cream shop in central Baghdad just after midnight on Monday, killing 13 people and wounding 24, hospital and police officials said. The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, which Iraqi officials said involved apparently remotely detonated explosives inside a parked car. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The attack came just days into the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. After sundown, families break their fast and Baghdad's restaurants and cafes quickly fill up. Videos posted to social media showed chaotic scenes on the streets surrounding the blast. A number of wounded lay on the ground, others propped themselves up on the colorful park benches outside the ice cream shop. One young girl, wearing a ribbon and bow in her hair, wandered the scene dazed. Ramadan is often marked by an uptick in violence in Iraq.

Former Panama dictator Manuel Noriega dies at 83

PANAMA CITY (AP)—A source close to the family of Manuel Noriega says the former Panamanian dictator has died at age 83. The source was not authorized to be quoted by name. Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela wrote in his Twitter account that "the death of Manuel A. Noriega closes a chapter in our history." The one-time U.S. ally was ousted as Panama's dictator by an American invasion in 1989. Noriega later served a 17-year drug sentence in the United States.

Focus

AP Explains:

NATO, the world's biggest military alliance

BRUSSELS (AP)—It sounds strange to characterize the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a huge gun club, but the comparison can be useful in understanding the world's biggest military alliance.

Like many gun clubs, NATO actually has no weapons of its own. The battleships, war planes, missiles and potential pool of more than 3 million personnel are owned and brought to the range by the 28 member states, mostly at their own cost. The only military equipment NATO has is a fleet of early warning radar planes and, from next year, five surveillance drones.

Here's a look at how NATO works and why it matters:

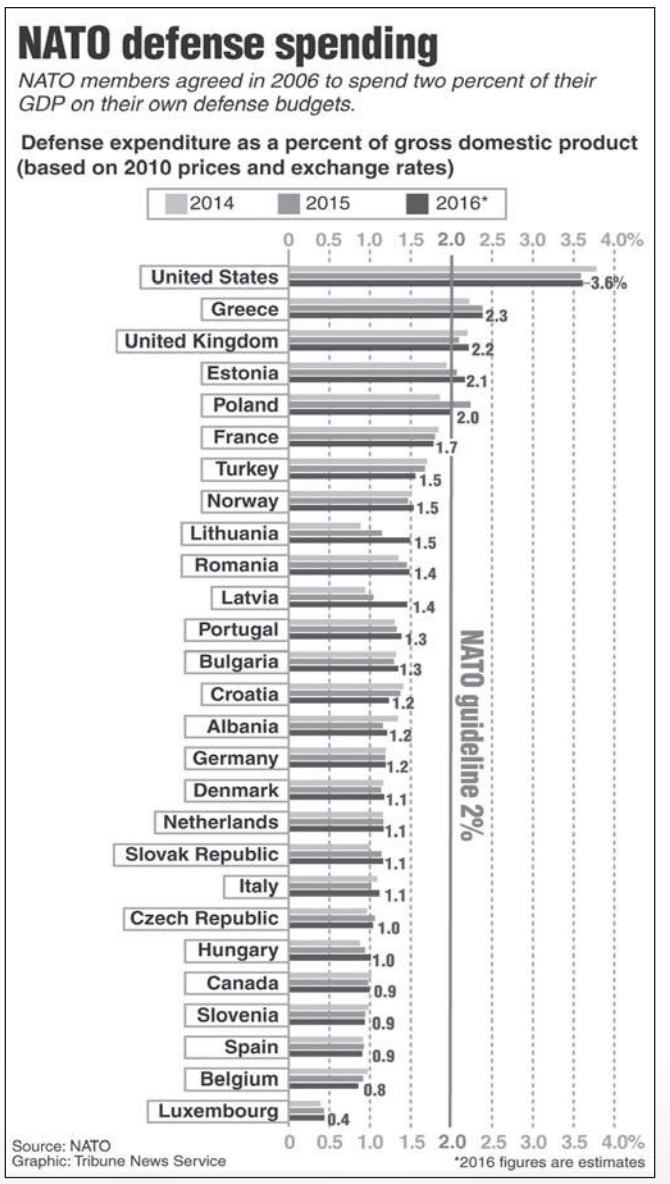
AN ALLIANCE BORN FROM THE ASHES OF WAR

This club, with its main headquarters in Brussels and military HQ in Mons, Belgium, is open to any European nation that wants to join and can meet the requirements and obligations. Montenegro is set to join soon. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia and Macedonia are waiting in line. The Soviet Union, during the Cold War, and Russia now have been major preoccupations since the organization was founded in 1949, and in many ways remain NATO's reason for existing.

The United States is without doubt the biggest and most influential member. It spends more on its own military budget than all the others combined. It also pays just over 22 percent of NATO common funding for infrastructure and collectively owned equipment. So Washington has a big say in how things are run. Smaller allies long to train and work with U.S. forces because it gives them access to equipment and expertise they can't afford alone. But NATO's decisions are made by consensus and there is no majority voting of any kind. This means that Albania, for example, has a veto just as final as Washington's.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

The alliance's meetings — the North Atlantic Council, held at ambassadorial level almost weekly in Brussels, less often at the level of ministers or heads of state and government — are chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. In essence, Stoltenberg runs the headquarters located near the Brussels airport, which is shifting just over the road this year to new premises being inaugurated by NATO leaders Thursday and estimated to have cost more than 1 billion euros. He doesn't order the allies around. His job is to encourage consensus and speak on their behalf publicly as a single voice representing all 28 members.



WHY AMERICANS SHOULD CARE

With the United States clearly able to take care of itself most of the time in military terms, many wonder why Americans should even care about NATO. But the alliance is the one international forum where Washington agrees to put its military might up for negotiation and can be persuaded to act differently by its allies. It's also an organization that uses plenty of U.S. taxpayer dollars. That money, in part, drives military spending and defense research and so provides plenty of jobs.

WHAT IT DOES

On the ground, NATO has notably helped to keep peace in the Balkans and combat the Taliban-led insurgency in war-torn Afghanistan — the alliance's biggest ever operation, launched after the United States triggered its "all for one and one for all" common defense clause in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. It is the only time the clause, known as Article 5, has been activated.

While the Soviet Union is long gone, NATO continues to see Russia as a security threat and to offer protection to concerned member states near Russia's borders. NATO is now joining the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group and setting up a counter-terrorism intelligence cell to improve information-sharing. It will notably focus on so-called foreign fighters who travel from Europe to train or fight with extremists in Iraq and Syria.

HOW MUCH SHOULD NATO DEFENSE COST?

President Donald Trump said Thursday that member states should be bound to spend at least pay 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. Only five members currently meet the target: Britain, Estonia, debt-laden Greece, Poland and the United States, which spends more than all the other allies combined.

In the wake of years of defense cuts, budgets are getting slowly back on the rise. The 28 member nations, plus soon-to-join Montenegro, are committed to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense by 2024. Still, many are skeptical about this arbitrary bottom line that takes no account of effective military spending where it's needed most. Germany would have to virtually double its military budget and spend more than Russia. In the European Union, the member nations now spend an average of 1.34 percent on defense, compared to 3.6 percent in the United States. Beyond an increase in spending, the EU is now making active efforts to cooperate more between nations to eliminate what it sees as up to $100 billion a year in wasteful overlap.

AP

In this Tuesday July 28, 2015 file photo NATO country flags wave outside NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Good Housekeeping

Gold doubloon gardenia can light up your landscape

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru

TNS

Gold Doubloon gardenia produces large flowers of tantalizing fragrance.

The Garden Bug
Freshen a deck or patio
• Remove all furniture. Clear away plant debris. Clean or pressure-wash the floor; paint or seal if needed.
• Pull weeds and add mulch around nearby plants for a neater look.
• Clean all furniture of mold, mildew and dirt. Paint where needed. New cushions will liven up seating.
• New pots with colorful plants or hanging baskets of flowers will complete your outdoor make-over.
- Brenda Weaver

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If you have fascinated about finding a gold doubloon I've got one for you, and it is a stunning gardenia variety. Like the word suggest doubloon or double this gardenia gives you dazzling color with gold and green foliage and large tantalizingly aromatic flowers.

As a child I was always fascinated with the story of Ulysses and particularly the part where the sirens would lure them to shore. In the garden it is the gardenia, perhaps one like gold doubloon that will create a detour in your path or plan, and make you linger as you fall under a magical spell of the intoxicating smell.

It is this fragrance like a rare perfume that has made the gardenia a part of American landscapes since the 1700's. Pick a flower and set it in a shallow bowl of water and your room will soon be flooded by the sweet aroma.

This treasure is known botanically as gardenia jasminoides, often referred to as cape jasmine and is native to Japan, China and Taiwan. Many find it interesting to know that it is in the rubiaceae family with well-known relatives, coffee, pentas and ixora.

TNS

Gold Doubloon is cold hardy to zone 7 and warmer and can be grown as a container plant and protected in colder regions.

In the South, the most popular use of the gardenia is as a free standing specimen. Another great and much overlooked use is as part of an informal border combined with azaleas or other evergreen shrubs such as hollies. Gardenias are also great in large containers on a patio or deck. In our shade garden, gold doubloon stands out like beacons of light among the tall pines. We are also growing another showy variegated selection called Kaleidoscope. This one has green, yellow and white variegation.

Visiting your garden center while gardenias are in bloom is like going to a bakery when the loaves of bread just come out of the oven. Not even my treasured night jasmine can compete with the fragrance of the gardenia. Many gardeners don't realize that we have variety of choices like gold doubloon, rated to zone 7, and the extra cold, hardy crown jewel that is rated for zone 6, and frostproof that has won the Mississippi Medallion and the Louisiana Super Plant awards.

The most popular gardening may still be August beauty, which reaches a height of 4 to 6 feet. In addition to gold doubloon, I am kind of partial to one called mystery, which may reach 8 feet. Both mystery and August beauty repeat bloom off and on through fall. These are recommended for zone 8 and warmer perhaps trying in a warmer micro-climate in zone in7.

If you want shorter plants, you have two options. One called daisy reaches about 3 feet and radicans is a dwarf variety reaching only 2 feet tall. Radicans looks different with pointed leaves and smaller but just as fragrant flowers. They make a nice border similar to dwarf yaupon. Radicans is sensitive to cold damage, so severe winters make knock back or even kill it. If you will be moving plants indoors these smaller selections may be easier.

Eastern exposure is ideal for a gardenia, so they get about six hours of sunlight followed by protection from the scorching sun. This can also help protect from the blustery winter winds. I also like under the shifting light of tall pines. Though I have seen a few, it is a rare gardenia that does well on the west side in full sun.

Gardenias require acidic soil similar to that of an azalea. After planting your gardenias in an, organic rich, well-drained bed, be sure to keep them well watered to get them established. Prolonged dryness will play havoc on many newly planted trees and shrubs. If your gardenia needs pruning, shape as desired after the main spring bloom. If you don't have a gardenia, take time to get close and personal with a blossom this spring for a sensory experience you are not soon to forget.

TNS

The bright gold and green variegation of the Gold Doubloon gardenia has the ability to show out in shadier landscape.

Life & Style

How Hollywood is giving its biggest stars digital facelifts

Johnny Depp is 53 years old but he doesn't look a day over 26 in the new "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie—at least for a few moments. There was no plastic surgeon involved, heavy makeup or archival footage used to take the actor back to his boyish "Cry Baby" face, however. It's all post-production visual effects, and after a decade of refining the process since Brad Pitt ran the gamut of time in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," it's becoming commonplace in major Hollywood movies.

Depp is just the latest megastar to get the drastic de-aging treatment on screen, joining the ranks of Robert Downey Jr. (in "Captain America: Civil War"), Michael Douglas (in "Ant-Man"), Kurt Russell (in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2") and scores of others getting digital facelifts to play younger versions of themselves. In the old days, a lucky unknown lookalike (or look enough alike) could have scored the part of young Jack Sparrow or Tony Stark. Now, if the film has the budget, the stars get to have it both ways—and audiences get a nostalgic flashback.

Lola Visual Effects is responsible for Depp's transformation, and most of the Marvel tricks, which have included making Chris Evans scrawny for the original "Captain America" and Hayley Atwell some 70 years older for the sequel.

Lola was the pioneer behind "Benjamin Button," too, and sells their services to all the major studios. It's one of a handful of vendors that have gotten in the so-called "beauty work" business. It's often meant to go unnoticed (like removing a blemish), and is generally buried under mountains of confidentiality agreements.

In the case of Depp, and most of Lola's de-aging work, the process starts with capturing a performance from the actor and then manipulating it. This isn't always necessary—"Rogue One" recreated the late Peter Cushing's Grand Moff Tarkin without him, and Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia using doubles—but it was critical for "Pirates."

"No one else can be Jack Sparrow," said Gary Brozenich, the Oscar-nominated VFX artist who oversaw visual effects for the film. "Trying to do a digital approximation ... audiences would see right through it."

Brozenich and the filmmakers decided to bring Depp back to how he looked around the time of "21 Jump Street" and "Cry Baby" and went through a number of iterations, over the course of six months, to arrive at the perfect age (roughly 26)—which Depp, Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer had to sign off on. The final shots, of which there are 20-25, took about 15 artists a year of work.

That Depp has been famous since that age was both a blessing and a curse for the production. They had numerous reference points to work with, but, so would the audience.

"Working on the human face is one of the, if not the most challenging thing to do," said Trent Claus, the visual effects supervisor for Lola VFX. "People can tell when there is something amiss. Even if they can't put their finger on what is wrong, they can tell that something is wrong."

AP

This combination of photos released by Disney, shows the character Jack Sparrow at two stages of his life in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales."

And while the artists have gotten better over the years and have mostly managed to avoid drifting into the dreaded uncanny valley—the term used to describe the eerie feeling you get when looking at a digital person who is near-lifelike, but not quite enough—there are still trouble spots.

"One of the things that we struggle with is the bottom of the chin. As you get older there tends to be a lot of sag and extra skin that develop underneath the jaw," Claus said. "It is unfortunately not just a simple task of removing the wrinkles because the skin isn't going to be responding the same as it did when you were younger. You have to change not only the way it looks on the outside but how it moves and reacts to movement and expressions."

To counteract this, productions will often shoot a younger double to mimic an actor's performance, which they will use as a reference point for how the younger skin should behave and look in certain lights.

"We're constantly fighting making it look lifelike. One of the advantages of the process that we use is by keeping the original actor, we have that starting point of life, of reality," Claus said.

It makes the whole process harder, but, "It's worth it."

Reactions, lately have been mixed, ranging from nostalgic delight and "how'd they do that" curiosity to dismay and wariness about its future.

New York Magazine critic David Edelstein wrote that the "recreations" are "far more disturbing in their real-world implications than the fictional destruction of planets and galaxies."

For New York Times critic Manohla Dargis, Russell's younger visage was "weird" and "disrupting."

"It makes you contemplate whether this Benjamin Button-style age-reversing is going to become an increasingly standard (and creepy) industry practice," she wrote.

"Pirates 5" co-director Espen Sandberg isn't as dark about it.

"For me it's just another storytelling tool and I think it's really cool," he said.

And for the VFX artists, it's only the beginning.

"Right now what we're using it for is a very nuts and bolts solution to a problem. There's a different and more creative future for it," Brozenich said. "There can be even crazier, more creative uses for it ... maybe a hybrid of several actors."

He thinks the next step is a digital character that plays a larger part, and not just a flashback. After all, the young Han Solo movie isn't using a de-aged Harrison Ford or Billy Dee Williams—they've cast Alden Ehrenreich and Donald Glover.

"We have digital characters that are a primary part of (films), like Rocket and Groot from 'Guardians of the Galaxy' ... But they're never a full-on human performer that plays a key role throughout the duration of a feature film," he said. "I think that that's really the Holy Grail." ***(AP)***

'Wonder Woman'

film and star live up to the name

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

"Wonder Woman " has been the subject of so much superfluous fuss, it'd be easy to forget that behind all of the hand-wringing and both symbolic and real pressure to succeed there's actually a movie meant to entertain.

Yet, like the heroine at its center, "Wonder Woman" the movie rises with powerful grace above the noise. It's not perfect, but it's often good, sometimes great and exceptionally re-watchable.

Director Patty Jenkins' film is so threaded with sincerity and goodness it's a wonder how it got past the pugnacious minds responsible for what's come before. "Wonder Woman" evokes not only the spirit of Richard Donner's "Superman," but also Joe Johnston's "Captain America: The First Avenger," while still being its own thing. Just look to the image of Gal Gadot confidently striding out alone onto an unwinnable battlefield with only a shield, a sword and a mission—and prevailing. It's enough to give you goosebumps.

"Wonder Woman" is structured as a coming-of-age story about how Diana, the Amazonian princess, becomes Wonder Woman. It's framed, clumsily, as an over two hour flashback provoked by a note from Bruce Wayne. Of all the stupid interconnected universe things!

Thankfully, Jenkins transitions quickly into the actual story about a naive idealist who comes to accept the complexities of mankind. From a tender age, Diana, living on the achingly idyllic island of Themyscira, dreams of being a warrior. Her mother, Queen Hippolyta (Connie Nielsen) disapproves, although she inexplicably withholds the real reason.

It's no wonder Diana aspires to fight. She's been told that their sole purpose is to keep the peace and destroy Ares, the god of war. Also, and not insignificantly, the warriors led by General Antiope (Robin Wright), are some of the fiercest babes ever to grace the screen. They fly around with swords and shields, bedecked in armored mini dresses and wedged gladiator sandals that allow them to leap 50 feet in the air.

Young Diana trains in secret, and then with reluctant permission, until an American spy, Steve Trevor (Chris Pine), crash lands on the island and tells the Amazons about the "war to end all wars." Diana concludes World War I must be Ares' doing and decides, impetuously and like so many arrogant superheroes before her, that she's ready for battle.

In London and at the battlefront, Diana gets a crash course in humanity, from the ills (sexism, alcoholism, colonialism, racism, apathy) to the good (babies, snow, ice cream). It's all very simplistic, but Gadot's serious and unapologetic curiosity sells the dubious premise that a woman so versed in so many things from Socrates to the "pleasures of the flesh" could be this unaware of human flaws. Perhaps they only teach the good stuff in Themyscira. But that's what Trevor is there for—to help this otherworldly crusader acclimate.

Pine plays Trevor as a spiritual cousin to Indiana Jones (he even gets to goof around with an accent that immediately evokes the "tapestries" bit from "The Last Crusade"). He's on his own mission, to stop the comically evil Germans General Ludendorff (Danny Huston) and Doctor Poison (Elena Anaya) from prolonging the war, but it's never a question that this is Diana's show.

Jenkins keeps the look and feel of the film classical, as it breezes through a strong second act. But, being a DC film, "Wonder Woman" can't help but devolve into a blurry, concrete-busting third act that feels dispiritingly like all the rest, not to mention a baffling reveal that negates most of Diana's growth. It's not enough to negate the good, though, and much of that is Gadot's doing.

She is the perfect Wonder Woman—a true blue hero who's as believable in her bafflement of women's fashions and social mores as she is dead-lifting a tank and swatting away machine gun fire with only her arm cuff.

I never cared about Wonder Woman before. Now I do.

Discrimination suits proceed against Fox, minus Roger Ailes

NEW YORK (AP)—The sudden death of Fox News founder Roger Ailes won't slow the march of litigation swirling around the network, legal observers and lawyers involved in the suits said.

Three new lawsuits by people alleging a hostile work environment were filed just days after his death at age 77. And while Ailes was a potential witness in some lawsuits, his absence is unlikely to matter much.

For one, the lawsuits—like most litigation—are likely to be resolved without a trial. And Ailes was never named as a defendant in the majority of suits brought in the last year by employees, former employees and others affiliated with the network.

In the few lawsuits in which he was personally named as a defendant or was considered a potential witness, lawyers said they planned to move forward without him. In one of those lawsuits, former Fox employee Andrea Tantaros, a onetime host of "The Five," claims she was taken off the air after complaining that Ailes subjected her to unwanted sexual comments—an allegation Ailes denied.

Douglas Wigdor, who represents 23 former or current Fox employees suing the company, said Ailes was not a defendant in any of his lawsuits, which mostly pertain to claims over race, gender, pregnancy and workplace retaliation. Only a handful included allegations of sexual harassment, none of which involved Ailes personally.

Wigdor said that he might have called Ailes as a witness in race discrimination cases to testify about how he handled various matters, but that he wasn't essential.

AP

In this Feb. 9, 2015, file photo, Roger Ailes attends a special screening of "Kingsman: The Secret Service" in New York.

The network had already settled claims brought directly against Ailes. Before his death, Ailes denied the allegations against him. His lawyers did not respond to requests for comment.

Ailes was forced out of Fox News last July after former anchor Gretchen Carlson claimed he sabotaged her career after she spurned his sexual advances.

Opera house undergoes $18M renovation in its 150th year

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—In its heyday, the stage at Newport's Opera House hosted everything from performances of vaudeville and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show to appearances by abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Now, one of the nation's oldest opera houses is undergoing an $18 million renovation after spending decades as a movie theater. The nonprofit group that owns it hopes to make it into a centerpiece of live performance and a gathering place for the seaside resort town already known around the world for its jazz and folk festivals.

The Newport Opera House Theater and Performing Arts Center is due to open in December, in celebration of its 150th anniversary. The people behind it hope the 700-seat venue will become a new destination for audiences and artists, and provide a place to keep the music alive in Newport year-round.

"There really isn't anything like this. It's totally unique," Alison Vareika, chair of the center's board, said during a tour of the building.

While thousands of music lovers flock to the city every summer for the Newport Folk Festival and Newport Jazz Festival, there are limited venues for live music, said Jay Sweet, the festivals' executive producer. Because of those limitations, they are always on the hunt for more places that can host musicians during a festival weekend, he said.

"We could definitely use more capacity to explore other unique events," Sweet said, adding that a venue with the history of the Opera House behind it is an added attraction. "Having it set up specifically for music is a real positive for the city."

Opera Houses were built across the country in the mid- to late 1800s as a dedicated performance space used by the town for all kinds of public gatherings, according to Ken Stein, president and CEO of the League of Historic American Theatres. They later gave way to vaudeville houses, then movie palaces, he said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince William talks of sadness that family can't meet Diana

LONDON (AP)—Prince William says he is sad his wife and two young children can't meet his late mother, Princess Diana. In an interview with the magazine British GQ, the heir to the throne opened up about his feelings about his mother's 1997 death in a Paris car crash. William told the magazine he would have liked having his mother's advice and for her to meet his wife, Kate, and to see her grandchildren grow up. Diana died long before 3-year-old Prince George and Princess Charlotte, who recently turned 2, were born. The interview with former Tony Blair spin doctor Alastair Campbell focuses on William's strong support for charities working on mental health issues. William says his chief goal is "smashing" the taboo surrounding mental health discussions.

Robert De Niro: Once inspiring, US now tragic dumb comedy

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Robert De Niro says that "in movie terms," the country was once "an inspiring uplifting drama" but now has turned into "a tragic dumbass comedy." The two-time, Oscar-winning actor spoke to Brown University graduates Sunday at the Ivy League school's commencement ceremonies. He urged them to "work to stop the insanity" and to strive to make the world better. De Niro received an honorary doctorate of fine arts. Actor and rapper Daveed Diggs, who won a Tony Award for his role in the phenomenon "Hamilton," also was among those who received honorary degrees. Diggs told the graduates that the country needs their new ideas "because the old ones have made a mess of things."

Prince Charles receives honorary degree in Transylvania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A Transylvanian university says Prince Charles has received an honorary degree for his devotion to Romania at the start of a private visit to the East European country. The rector of Cluj's Babes-Bolyai University, Ioan Aurel Popa, bestowed the "doctor honoris causa distinction on the prince Monday for his role as "a real protector of Transylvania and Romania." Charles, who is enamored of Romania, told students and professors gathered for the ceremony said he was enticed by the "hilly, woody and fertile landscape," he encountered in Transylvania 20 years ago. He owns two properties in the northwest Transylvania region which he visits yearly. In March, he made a three-day official visit to Romania on behalf of the British government.

We'll always have Van Nuys: Hangar from 'Casablanca' saved

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The airport hangar facade from the opening scene of "Casablanca" has found a home a decade after being saved from the wrecking ball. The arched facade dating to the 1920s has been in a Los Angeles parking lot since it was removed during 2007 renovations at Van Nuys Airport. The hangar with 95-foot doors appeared in movies including the 1939 Laurel and Hardy comedy "The Flying Deuces." Most famously a plane lands in front of it in 1942's "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Christine Dunn, who with her late husband recovered the hangar 10 years ago, told the Daily News on Sunday that it'll be moved to Valley Relics Museum, home to many pop culture items. The goal is to restore it as part of a Moroccan-themed restaurant at Van Nuys Airport.

Age is no barrier for man long in love with neighbor

DEAR ABBY: I'm 36, doing very well in business, single and deeply in love with a 58-year-old woman. She has been a neighbor since I was in grade school. She's petite, pretty, intelligent, cheerful and looks my age.

My parents moved to Florida when I turned 27, and I bought their home just so I could be near her. On my 33rd birthday, I begged her to cook for me. We had dinner and too much wine and ended up in bed. We don't live together, and she often tells me to find a younger woman. I have tried to gift her a car, jewelry, etc., but she has refused them all.

Our families are against this. I'm going crazy trying to convince her I love her. When I told her I've loved her since middle school, she laughed. My parents say I am insane, though they love her dearly. Am I? Help, please.

IN LOVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IN LOVE: Insane? No. When people are in love, they sometimes think emotionally rather than rationally. The 22-year difference in your ages may be why your parents are calling you insane.

Rather than try to "buy" your neighbor's love with gifts, try to get her to tell you how she DOES feel about you and about what happened the night she cooked you dinner. If it was only because she had too much to drink, she may be embarrassed that things went as far as they did. If it was because the attraction is mutual, you should explain to her that while it may be unusual, these kinds of relationships can be successful if both parties are mature. Example: The president of France, Emmanuel Macron, and his first lady.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a full-time pet and livestock sitter. I work seven days a week, including holidays, sometimes for weeks at a time, in clients' homes caring for their animals. I have 40 years of care experience, and I'm recommended by every veterinarian in the area. I have worked very hard to build my reputation, and I charge reasonable prices.

On occasion, a client wants a "deal" and tries to bargain down my already reasonable fee. It is nearly always attorneys (who also look for a reason to be disappointed after the fact, but fail) or extremely wealthy people. I try hard not to show how insulting their request is, especially when someone's front gate costs more than my annual income. Sometimes I'll bend, but then I kick myself for doing it. (I am working hard to quit doing that.)

Why should it cost me money to care for someone else's animals and home? I need a polite, respectful and definite comeback to decline making deals.

PET SITTER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PET SITTER: Try this: "I'm the best. My prices are firm. If you're looking for a bargain, hire someone else. Plenty of people will accept what you're offering. But remember, you get what you pay for."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: In the midst of planning my wedding, I got pregnant. My family wants to plan for a combination bridal/baby shower, but my mother thinks I should only have a baby shower because I will receive gifts at my wedding. What is your take on this?

UNSURE IN TEXAS

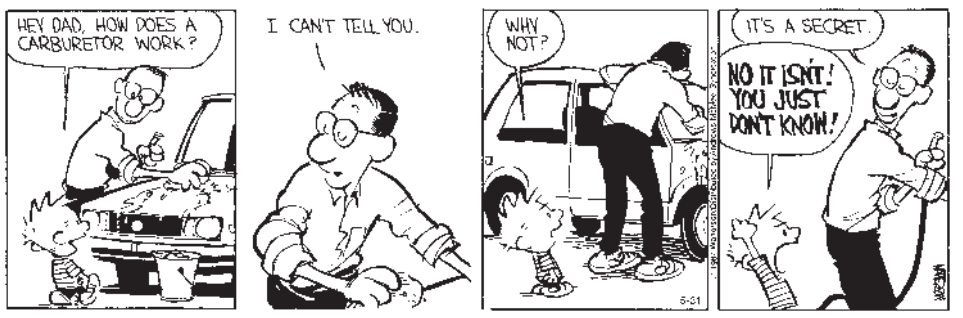
DEAR UNSURE: I agree with your mother for the reason she gave you. You will need baby things in the near future. Your wedding will effectively be your wedding shower.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

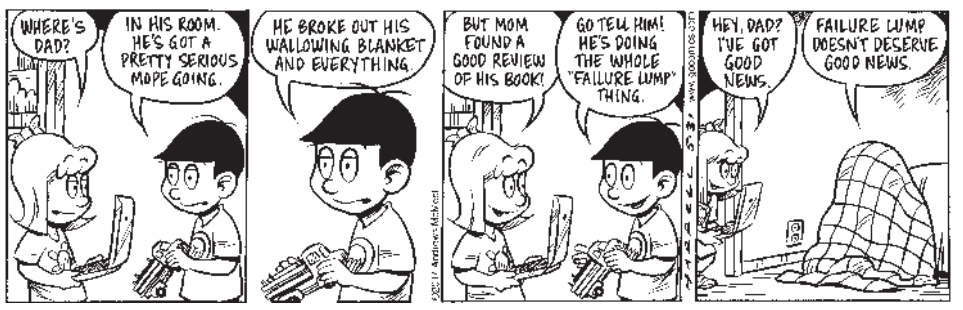


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

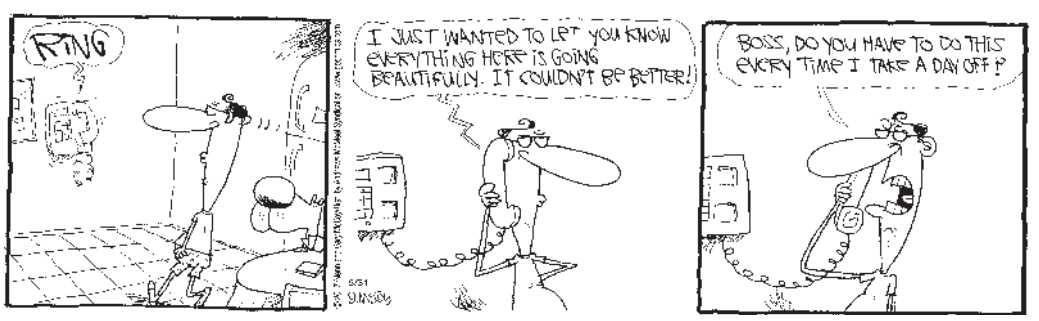
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'S DAD?
IN HIS ROOM. HE'S GOT A PRETTY SERIOUS MOPE GOING.
HE BROKE OUT HIS WALLOWING BLANKET AND EVERYTHING.
BUT MOM FOUND A GOOD REVIEW OF HIS BOOK!
GO TELL HIM! HE'S DOING THE WHOLE "FAILURE LUMP" THING.
HEY, DAD? I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS.
FAILURE LUMP DOESN'T DESERVE GOOD NEWS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RING
I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW EVERYTHING HERE IS GOING BEAUTIFULLY. IT COULDN'T BE BETTER!
BOSS, DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY TIME I TAKE A DAY OFF?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Corn core
4 Sunrise direction
8 Innocent one
12 Pi follower
13 Sneeze syllable
14 Raw minerals
15 Switch settings
16 Book repositories
18 Winter quaff
20 Thither
21 Tower city
24 Stays fresh
28 Pianist known as "Mr. Showmanship"
32 Sandwich treat
33 Enzyme suffix
34 Book keeper
36 Soon-to-be grads
37 Citi Field team
39 Opera text
41 Fuzzy fruit
43 — -do-well
44 Brink
46 Two under par
50 Celebratory drinks
55 Charged bit
56 Each
57 Bangkok language
58 Head of st.
59 Cookware
60 Forum wear
61 CIA operative

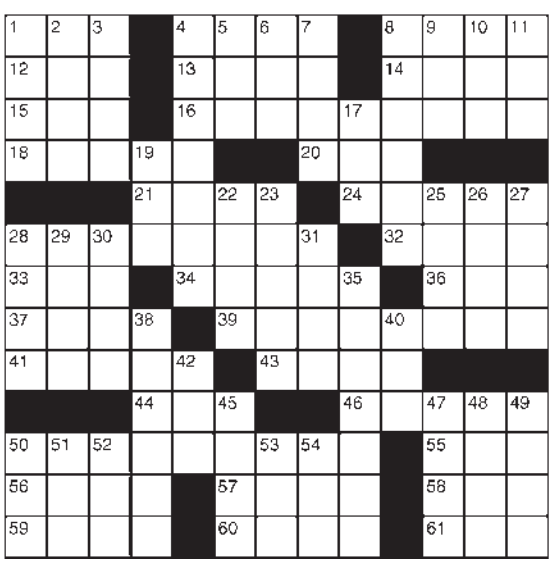
DOWN

1 Gator's kin
2 "It can't be!"
3 Pear type
4 Cream-filled pastries
5 Sushi fish
6 Cry
7 Whig rival
8 Third-largest island
9 "Exodus" hero
10 Spell-down
11 Curved letter
17 Fine, to NASA
19 Unlock, in verse
22 Satirist Mort
23 — the hole (hidden advantage)
25 Formerly, once
26 Impudent
27 Mediocre
28 Genie's home
29 "Got it"
30 Test version
31 North Sea feeder
35 Flowering plant of the iris family
38 Tussles
40 Historic period
42 Smack
45 Catcher's aid
47 Bands' bookings
48 Air-show stunt
49 Jealousy
50 Napkin's place
51 Wall St. debut
52 Automaton, for short
53 Discoverer's call
54 Kvetch

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	C	D	C		A	M	O	S		R	A	P
I	I	F	L		C	O	R	A		H	B	O
L	A	W	S	C	H	O	O	L		A	B	U
			T	U	E	S		U	P	P	E	R
S	H	R	E	D			C	T	I	S		
I	F	A	R		G	E	N	E	P	O	C	I
A	R	I		S	C	L	E	S		D	I	E
H	A	N	D	I	C	O	L		S	I	N	G
		C	O	R	D			P	I	C	K	S
C	R	O	W	E		F	V	A	N			
R	I	A		A	P	R	I	L	F	O	O	L
A	G	I		K	A	L	E		U	V	E	A
W	A	S		S	T	E	W		L	A	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 41; Brooke Shields, 52; Tom Berenger, 68; Clint Eastwood, 87.

Happy Birthday: Put your plans into motion. Figuring out what you want to do based on what you've been through should be first on your agenda. Knowing what you want and the changes you will need to make to head in that direction will help you achieve positive, progressive and productive results. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 27, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Personal changes that update your look or revitalize the way you approach your daily chores should be your intent. Taking a high-energy approach combined with a little organization will help you move on to more pleasurable pastimes. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for a way to improve your physical, emotional and mental health. Getting into a routine that is geared toward daily exercise and good nutrition will help you avoid poor habits and chronic problems that can slow you down. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make your habits work for you. Change what is getting you down or holding you back. You can make a difference if you set positive goals and don't stop until you reach the type of lifestyle you want to live. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You may want to help the underdog, but not at an expense you cannot afford. Too much of anything will turn into a burden. Offer suggestions, but don't let anyone take advantage of your good nature or kind heart. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Personal improvements will draw attention. Bring about the changes that will position you for advancement. Go about your business passionately and you will gain support. Fitness and health improvements are favored. Celebrate your victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will be difficult to control. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your vulnerability. Don't share information that isn't yours to share. Stay focused on doing your job well instead of letting someone jeopardize your chance to advance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think before you make a move. Don't let emotions take over, causing you to make a sudden move you will later regret. Step back and consider the best road to emotional or physical recovery. Choose peace over conflict. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* What you accomplish will result in positive changes. Whether it's updating your resume, going for an interview or completing a job you were given, you will receive praise. A new acquaintance or partnership will turn out to be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll face opposition and emotional manipulation if you let someone interfere in your life. Keep your personal plans a secret until you know you can enforce them without complications setting in. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep looking for the best path. The doorway to success will not be the one someone is trying to push you through. Make up your own mind and head in whatever direction makes you feel comfortable. Don't lose sight of practicality. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Reconnect with people you have worked or gone to school with and you will find out information that can help you get ahead. A reunion will change the way you view your own progress. Making comparisons will boost your morale. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do the jobs you are given to the best of your ability. Approach partnerships with an open mind and the willingness to work as a team player. Someone you respect will acknowledge a personal change you make. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steady, progressive and outgoing. You are playful and enthusiastic.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
	8		2		7		4	
		5				1		
			9		8			
4			3	7	5		8	2
7	5			2		9	3	
	2	1		8	9	5		
			6	3				
				4				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	1	2	9	3	6	4	8	5
4	6	8	7	2	5	9	1	3
3	9	5	8	4	1	2	6	7
8	7	9	6	5	3	1	4	2
2	3	6	1	7	4	5	9	8
5	4	1	2	9	8	3	7	6
6	8	4	5	1	2	7	3	9
1	2	7	3	6	9	8	5	4
9	5	3	4	8	7	6	2	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GOLD FOR CASH Solution: 7 letters

E	W	O	L	L	E	Y	B	U	Y	E	R	O	S	E
A	H	F	S	L	A	T	E	M	J	N	I	A	H	C
R	I	F	E	A	N	I	E	G	A	M	A	D	D	T
R	T	E	T	T	K	R	E	O	W	S	E	E	I	E
I	E	R	A	N	L	U	L	L	U	Y	V	Y	A	L
N	M	N	V	E	E	P	W	O	L	A	E	O	M	E
G	I	S	I	D	T	E	I	E	L	S	X	L	O	C
S	L	E	R	F	I	C	T	U	I	B	P	L	N	A
T	L	N	P	G	E	A	E	R	R	R	E	A	D	R
N	I	O	H	R	I	R	E	O	P	A	R	C	S	B
A	G	T	P	D	E	V	O	P	M	A	T	S	A	T
T	R	S	E	L	L	C	H	A	R	M	I	R	Y	L
S	A	M	L	I	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	A	L	E
N	M	E	S	A	H	C	R	U	P	I	E	C	E	M
I	S	G	N	I	N	W	A	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T

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Alloyed, Anklet, Bars, Bracelet, Brooch, Buyer, Chain, Charm, Damage, Dental, Diamonds, Earrings, Expertise, Gemstones, Immediately, Instant, Loan, Melt, Metals, Milligrams, Offer, Pawning, Payment, Piece, Precious, Private, Purchase, Purity, Refiner, Rise, Rose, Sale, Scrap, Scratch, Seller, Silver, Stamp, Value, Weight, White, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Comedian

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay cash. Call Lucy at 285-9295

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over $22,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

BL MACHINE SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) ACCOUNTANT
At Least 3 years experience in General Accounting & Auditing, Obtained a degree of Bachelor in Accountancy, Knowledgeable in Peach Tree Software Accounting

Contact Person: Liberty Sayson
Contact No. 235-2567

LOOKING TO BUY

American CM Real Estate

Looking for:	Location:
• House	• Garapan
• Apartment	• Navy Hill
• Property	• Capitol Hill
• Commercial Building	• Gualo Rai
	• Beach Front

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Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Electronic Technician – 5 yrs experience - $6.55/hr. Must be certified/licensed air-conditioning technician. Knowledgeable in satellite TV System, CCTV camera, alarm system, entertainment equipment & other electronics equipment – installation and service repair. Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to

Ally Electronics
P.O. Box 503534 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. # 287-9968/email-lanqiangl@hotmail.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, full-time (1) and part-time (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on June 06, 2017.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(2) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) GARDENER
Minimum of three (3) months of work experience. Must have working knowledge of landscaping. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, June 5th, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager (1)

Must have 5 years related experience and /or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. The primary responsibilities of the General Manager include directly supervising the restaurant employees, managing operations in the front and back of the house with a high concentration on profitability, safety, sanitation, and sales growth, while constantly maintaining company's standards of quality and service. Responsibilities also include developing managers and team members. General Manager must be able to work a flexible schedule, which include weekends, holidays, and late nights. Additional responsibilities include developing and maintaining professional functional working relationship with restaurant hourly employees and the franchise organization. Managing the restaurant floor, focusing on regular contact with guests. Handling guest complaints in a professional and timely manner. Carrying our supervisory duties such as recruitment and hiring, training, directing workflow, appraisal performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, and resolving complaints and problems. Completing required reports and paperwork accurately and on time. Maintaining personnel files with appropriate employment and legal documents.

Manager (2)

Must have 2-4 years related experience and /or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. The primary responsibilities of the Manager is assisting the General Manager in directly supervising the restaurant employees, managing operations in the front and back of the house with a high concentration on profitability, safety, sanitation, and sales growth, while constantly maintaining company's standards of quality and service. Responsibilities also include assisting the General Manager in developing team members. Managers must be able to work a flexible schedule, which include weekends, holidays, and late nights. Additional responsibilities include developing and maintaining professional functional working relationship with restaurant hourly employees and the franchise organization. Managing the restaurant floor, focusing on regular contact with guests. Handling guest complaints in a professional and timely manner. Carrying our supervisory duties such as recruitment and hiring, training, directing workflow, appraisal performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, and resolving complaints and problems.

This invitation is for U.S. Citizens, US Green Card holders, and FAS work authorized citizens only. Email resumes with valid police clearance to jonedera34@gmail.com or fax to (671)647-2662, ATTN: Pacific Pancakes CNMI LLC

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)
Has an opening for

Pump Attendants

- We are looking for energetic people who are friendly, smiling, dependable, and desires to be a team player to work as Customer Service Representatives.
- Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate effective: People skills. Communication skills. English and Math Skills.
- Reliable transportation is required.
- Must be punctual.
- Must be willing to learn new skills & follow instructions.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule; including Sundays and Holidays.
- Sales or Customer Service background helpful
- A High School Diploma or GED required.
- On island references & police clearance required.

Application form is available in any of our four (4) Service Stations:

1) Shell Highway Express Gualo Rai (beside First Hawaiian Bank)
2) Shell Puerto Rico
3) Shell San Roque
4) Shell Susupe

Delta Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer
(No phone call please)

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Please call 235-NEWS

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Nationals win heated match against Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An enraged Bryce Harper charged the mound, fired his helmet and traded punches to the head with San Francisco reliever Hunter Strickland after getting hit by a fastball, setting off a wild brawl Monday during the Washington Nationals' 3-0 win over the Giants.

Drilled in the right hip by a 98 mph heater on Strickland's first pitch in the eighth inning with two outs, none on and Washington ahead 2-0, Harper didn't hesitate. The slugger pointed his bat at Strickland, yelled at him and took off.

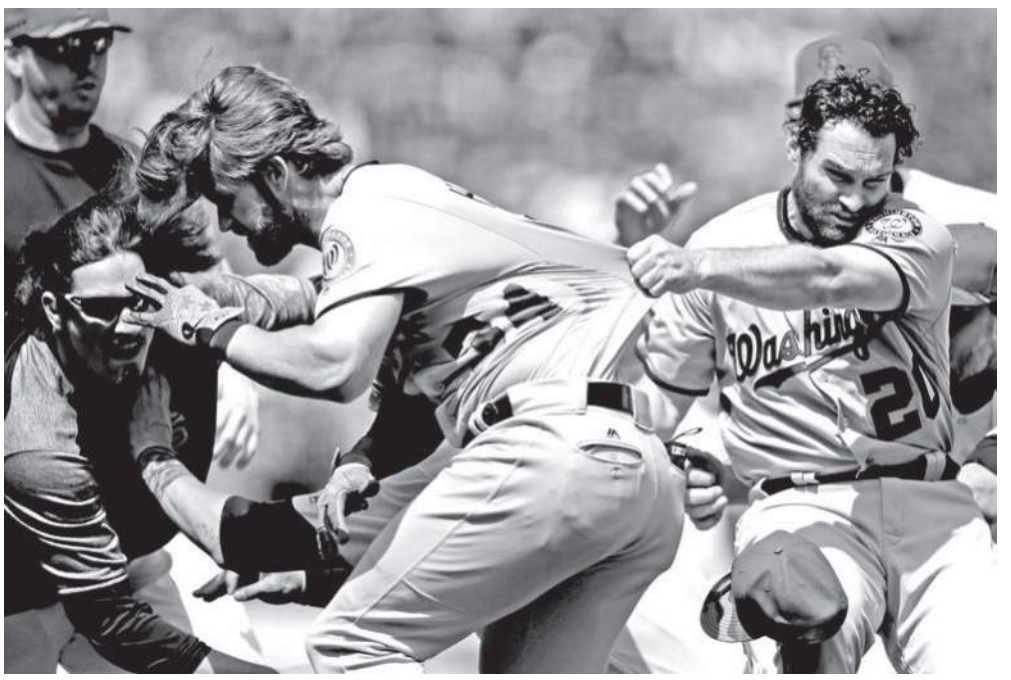
No one got in Harper's way as he rushed the mound. His eyes were wide as he flung his helmet — it sailed wide of Strickland, it might've slipped — and they started swinging away. The 6-foot-4 Strickland hit Harper in the face, then they broke apart for a moment before squaring off again. Harper punched Strickland in the head as the benches and bullpen emptied.

Harper and Strickland were both ejected. They have some history between them — in the 2014 NL Division Series, Harper hit two home runs off Strickland, and the All-Star outfielder glared at the reliever as he rounded the bases.

Tanner Roark (5-2) struck out six and allowed six hits in seven innings. The NL East leaders opened a nine-game West Coast trip with their sixth win in eight games.

Koda Glover pitched a scoreless ninth to notch his sixth save in seven tries.

Ryan Zimmerman hit his 14th homer, off Matt Moore (2-6) in the second.



AP

Washington Nationals' Daniel Murphy (20) tries to restrain teammate Bryce Harper (34) after Harper charged San Francisco Giants' Hunter Strickland after being hit with a pitch in the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, May 29, 2017, in San Francisco.

Astros 16, Twins 8

In Minneapolis, Carlos Beltran homered and singled during an 11-run burst in the eighth inning against Minnesota's beleaguered bullpen as Houston overwhelmed the Twins in a matchup of AL division leaders.

The Astros combined for eight hits, two walks, a hitter batter and a balk in the eighth to rally from an 8-2 deficit. The Twins tried three pitchers in the inning, a day after they used eight relievers in a 15-inning loss to Tampa Bay.

Beltran finished with four hits and Carlos Correa had three, including a home run. Alex Bregman also homered for Houston, which had a season-high 18 hits, 13 of them in the last two innings.

Jordan Jankowski (1-0) got his first major league win with 2 1/3 innings in relief of starter Brad Peacock. He allowed four earned runs and gave up home runs to Miguel Sano and Robbie Grossman but he benefited from the Houston hit parade.

Craig Breslow (1-1) took the loss.

Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen hit a leadoff homer in the ninth inning, lifting Pittsburgh over Arizona in a wild ending.

McCutchen sent a 1-1 pitch from Archie Bradley (1-1) over the right field wall to cap off a back-and-forth ninth. It was the eighth homer this season for McCutchen, recently dropped to sixth in the batting order for the first time in his career.

Diamondbacks pinch hitter Chris Iannetta tied the game moments earlier with a two-run homer to left field off closer Tony Watson. Watson (4-1) was credited with the win after blowing his third save in 13 opportunities.

It was a costly victory for the Pirates, as starting right fielder Gregory Polanco left the game with an injury. Polanco got his right ankle caught awkwardly in the railing separating the stands from the playing field while chasing down a foul ball in the sixth inning.

Indians 5, Athletics 3

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco won his third straight decision and Edwin Encarnacion hit one of Cleveland's three solo home runs.

Carrasco (5-2) pitched six shutout innings before allowing back-to-back homers to Yonder Alonso and Ryon Healy in the seventh. The right-hander, who hasn't lost since April 28, allowed four hits and struck out seven.

Andrew Miller struck out the side in the eighth. Cody Allen gave up Khris Davis' solo homer and two singles in the ninth, but struck out Trevor Plouffe and recorded his 14th save.

Daniel Mengden (0-1), recalled from Triple-A Nashville to make his first start of the season, allowed five runs in 3 1/3 innings.

White Sox 5, Red Sox 4

In Chicago, Boston lefty David Price had an uneven season debut while Melky Cabrera homered and drove in four runs, helping Chicago rally.

Price, who missed the first part of the year with a left elbow strain, threw 88 pitches in five innings. The former AL Cy Young Award winner gave up two hits, including Cabrera's three-run homer, walked two and hit two batters. He also struck out four.

Price was in line for the win before Kevan Smith hit an RBI double off Matt Barnes (3-2) in the seventh, tying it at 4. Cabrera had an RBI single with two outs.

Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia injured his wrist in the first inning and exited in the second. He was hurt trying to beat out a hit when first baseman Jose Abreu slid into the bag and Pedroia fell over him.

Juan Minaya (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning and David Robertson closed for his eighth save in nine chances.

Orioles 3, Yankees 2

In Baltimore, Dylan Bundy allowed two runs over seven innings in another strong start at Camden Yards as Baltimore beat New York to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Jonathan Schoop had two RBIs to help the Orioles end their longest skid since a nine-game drought in 2011.

Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 17th home run for the first-place Yankees in this AL East matchup.

Bundy (6-3) gave up seven hits, struck out three and walked one. Brad Brach got three straight outs for his 10th save in 13 tries.

Yankees rookie Jordan Montgomery (2-4) allowed three runs, one earned, in 4 1/3 innings.

Dodgers 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Chase Utley, Cody Bellinger and Logan Forsythe hit solo home runs, leading Rich Hill and Los Angeles over St. Louis for its fifth straight victory.

Hill (2-2) recovered from a bout of wildness in his last start to pitch five innings, giving up one run and two hits. In his previous outing, also against the Cardinals, he permitted five runs on four hits and seven walks in four innings.

Mike Leake (5-3) entered the game leading the majors with a 1.91 ERA, but allowed a season-high four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Padres 5, Cubs 2

In San Diego, rookie Hunter Renfroe hit a grand slam off Kyle Hendricks as San Diego handed Chicago its fourth straight loss.

The defending World Series champion Cubs have lost six straight road games. They were coming off a three-game sweep at the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Cubs had only three hits. They drew 10 walks and two batters were hit by pitches.

Hendricks (4-3) retired his first 10 batters before allowing seven of his final 11 to reach.

Jose Torres (3-2) pitched two scoreless, hitless innings for the win. He walked two and struck out one. Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Mariners 6, Rockies 5

In Denver, Sam Gaviglio pitched into the sixth inning to get his first career victory, and Seattle used six relievers to beat Colorado.

Danny Valencia had three hits and Kyle Seager had a key double to help Gaviglio (1-1) get the milestone in his fourth appearance and third start.

The Mariners had given Gaviglio a 6-2 lead with three runs in the third on just one hit, and three more in the fifth on three walks, three singles and a two-run double by Seager off starter Tyler Chatwood (4-7).

Edwin Diaz worked the ninth for his ninth save.

Mets 4, Brewers 2

In New York, hours after the Mets ticketed him for the bullpen, rookie Robert Gsellman pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and had two RBIs to lead New York past Milwaukee.

Rene Rivera and Michael Conforto each hit an RBI double during a three-run fifth against starter Matt Garza (2-2). Sandwiched in between, Gsellman drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly.

Before the game, general manager Sandy Alderson said Gsellman (3-3) probably is headed back into a struggling bullpen when injured starters Steven Matz and Seth Lugo come off the disabled list. Addison Reed got three outs for his seventh save.

Rays 10, Rangers 8

In Arlington, Texas, Tim Beckham hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the seventh as Tampa Bay scored five runs in a span of three pitches to end Texas' eight-game home winning streak.

Steven Souza Jr. had four hits with four runs scored for Tampa Bay, while Evan Longoria's four RBIs included a two-run homer.

Pinch-hitter Colby Rasmus hit a two-run double on the first pitch thrown by reliever Tony Barnette (1-1), tying the game at 7-all before a no-pitch intentional walk to Kevin Kiermaier, who had already struck out three times. Beckham then hit a 1-0 pitch over the 14-foot wall in left-center field.

Jose De Leon (1-0) allowed three runs in 2 2/3 innings and still won his Rays debut. Alex Colome struck out the side in a perfect ninth for his 14th save in 16 chances.

Tigers 10, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Cabrera and J.D. Martinez each drove in three runs as Detroit came from behind to beat Kansas City.

Joakim Soria (2-2), who is 0 for 3 in save situations, retired none of the five batters he faced in the eighth, and four of them scored. He allowed three singles, walked two and allowed a run on a wild pitch.

Whit Merrifield homered, tripled and doubled in his first three at-bats, but flied out to end the seventh. No Royal has hit for the cycle since Hall of Famer George Brett in 1990.

Francisco Rodriguez (2-5) was credited with the victory.

Blue Jays 17, Reds 2

In Toronto, Troy Tulowitzki hit his fourth career grand slam and Marcus Stroman won his fifth straight decision to help Toronto rout Cincinnati.

Justin Smoak hit a three-run homer and Russell Martin added a two-run shot for the Blue Jays, who have 43 home runs in May.

Stroman (6-2) allowed two runs in six innings, improving to 5-0 with a 2.96 ERA in his past eight starts.

Reds right-hander Lisalverto Bonilla (0-3) took the loss.

Braves 6, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Matt Adams and Danny Santana had two-run doubles during a six-run third inning to help Atlanta overcome Albert Pujols' 598th career homer and beat Los Angeles.

The Angels placed two-time AL MVP Mike Trout on the disabled list for the first time in his career before the game, and the center fielder will need surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb. He's expected to miss six to eight weeks.

Julio Teheran (4-4) won his second game since April by holding the Angels to six hits.

The Braves chased starter Ricky Nolasco (2-5) in the third. Jim Johnson pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 11th save.

Marlins 4, Phillies 1

In Miami, Edinson Volquez pitched six innings to earn his first win of the year after seven losses as Miami forged its first two-game winning streak since April 23.

Volquez (1-7), who leads the majors in defeats, allowed one run and three hits to earn his first victory since Aug. 25 with the Royals — when he beat the Marlins. The former All-Star went 0-8 in his next 16 starts before his breakthrough.

Marlins nemesis Jeremy Hellickson (5-3) allowed four runs in six innings. The Phillies (17-32), who have the worst record in the majors, lost for the 23rd time in the past 29 games, and fell to 7-19 on the road.

A.J. Ramos completed a four-hitter, striking out the side after a leadoff walk in the ninth for his sixth save.

Cool Hand Lue: Cavs coach keeps NBA champs calm amid chaos

CLEVELAND (AP)—Moments after the Eastern Conference championship banner was raised by the Cavaliers for the third straight time and the obligatory postgame interviews ended, Tyronn Lue slipped quietly away.

Cleveland's coach ducked into the shadows, his preferred location.

"I don't like the attention," he said.

But Lue, once a journeyman point guard who steered the Cavs to an NBA championship last season, has grown more accepting of his frontman role. He'll again be at center stage this week as Cleveland meets Golden State in the third installment of their title trilogy.

If the unassuming, easygoing Lue had his preference, the teams would duke it out for the Larry O'Brien Trophy on a playground court in a stifling hot gymnasium, with only a handful of onlookers present. A student of the game, he's old school with a fresh perspective.

Of the many juicy subplots between the Cavs and Warriors, one that frequently goes overlooked is Lue, the former assistant who has blossomed in no time into one of the league's brightest young head coaches and a playoff savant.

He's 28-6 in two postseasons with Cleveland. His players credit Lue's soothing, steady influence—on and off the floor—as nearly as vital to their success as a clutch Kyrie Irving 3-pointer.

"It's just his level of calmness no matter what's going on," LeBron James said following practice. "He always talks about, at the end of the day, he's already won in life, so whatever else happens after this is extra credit. And I feel the same way. That's why I relate to him so much. Lose here, or you win a game here, it's like, 'All right, cool. I've already done so much more than anybody ever gave me credit of doing or thought I can do, so there's no reason to get too high or too low.'

"So it's the even-keel mentality about our coach and it definitely helps us as players when we're going out into a war."

Lue has been preparing for the biggest battle of his basketball career this week.

From the moment he returned home from Boston following the Cavs' win in Game 5 of the conference finals, Lue has immersed himself in the Warriors, a virtual All-Star team featuring two league MVPs (Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry), a deadeye shooter (Klay Thompson) and a triple-threat performer (Draymond Green).

Lue's defensive strategy to this point in the playoffs has been to neutralize the opponents' top player. The Cavs were able to do that with Indiana's Paul George, Toronto's DeMar DeRozan and Boston's Isaiah Thomas, who aggravated a hip injury in Game 2 and missed the remainder of the series. Cleveland blitzed, double-teamed and did all it could take away the other team's offensive threat.

Lue was asked if it's more difficult to identify who that is on Golden State.

"Hell yeah," he said, his voice rising. "It's tough."

There are few weaknesses in these Warriors, the first team to head into the final round 12-0 and winning by an average of 16.3 points per game.

"They have so many weapons," Lue said, "having four All-Stars and now adding KD to the mix who I've always loved as a scorer, just how he scores so easy. They have a lot of options. It's going to be tough, but we have to lock into what we have to do defensively, and sometimes you can play great defense and it doesn't work. Steph is making tough shots, Klay is making tough shots and KD is making tough shots. But all you can do is play your defense, stick to your principles and just make it as tough as possible."

The Cavs know Lue won't panic.

He stayed cool last spring when Cleveland fought back from a 3-1 deficit to win its first title. Lue made subtle tweaks to his rotation, drew up key inbounds plays, then isolated Irving late in Game 7 on Curry. The Cavs All-Star guard made his now famous go-ahead, step-back 3-pointer.

Pressure intensifies in the postseason, when possessions, turnovers and rebounds are magnified.

As the drama builds, Lue stays composed, setting the tone for his players.

"Throughout the postseason there's so many different emotions," James said. "Going high, going low. And if you're a coach able to just stay even-keeled throughout the whole thing, it relaxes the rest of the group."

Don't be fooled by Lue's cool. He can get fiery when needed.

"I always get mad when guys make shots in the first quarter, second quarter, pumping their chest and then the game on the line they miss," Lue said. "So you're doing all that for no reason. I always like to stay even-keeled and just play the game the right way."

Lue is a stickler for detail, and he won't cut any corners preparing for another dance with the Warriors. He'll have the Cavs ready, and they can also count on him to keep them relaxed.

"When you're prepared and you do the best you can do and you put it out there on the floor, you've just got to live with the results," Lue said. "I'm doing my homework, I'm doing every possible thing to put this team in every situation to win. When you're doing that, things you go over every day, end-of-game plays and things like that, either they work or they don't."

AP

In this April 5, 2017, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers head coach Tyronn Lue gestures during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, in Boston.

Like Shaun Livingston, JaVale McGee perfect fit on Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—JaVale McGee practices 3-pointers from all around the arch, just in case. He sits with assistant coach Jarron Collins and a laptop to study film, long after practice and his shooting workouts are complete.

The 7-footer's rugged professional path has landed him at seemingly the perfect stop: in the Bay Area with the NBA's best.

Just don't call him a journeyman.

"I've never considered myself a journeyman in the first place," McGee said after a practice this weekend. "Whatever y'all want to call me y'all can call me. The number of teams I've been on was in like one year. I've been with three teams in two years."

Yet McGee must not look far to find someone else who has learned to thrive as a well-traveled NBA role player. Just a quick glance a couple of lockers down to where Shaun Livingston dresses at Oracle Arena, defying the odds yet again this season as a regular reserve contributing to another Warriors championship chase, is all it takes.

McGee has never made it this far, an NBA Finals first-timer when Golden State hosts defending champion Cleveland in Game 1 on Thursday night. Livingston never should have made it this far, and here he is back to the final round seeking his second title in three seasons—and 10 years after a devastating injury that could have sidelined him for good. Doctors thought they might have to amputate his left leg.

Fourteen teams between them, over 21 combined seasons. Each has found a great groove in Golden State's rotation, called upon to take pressure off the big stars while maintaining the highest level.

"We just kind of follow suit, but it's up to everybody to come in and lock in on the details. It's the playoffs," Livingston said. "Obviously the stars help, they get all the headlines deservedly so, but the small things, the details, that's what we lock in at and that's how we win ballgames."

McGee has discovered the ideal place to shine as an alley-oop specialist in a pass-happy offense, and even Stephen Curry admits it's so easy to target the sure-handed big man perhaps the Warriors do so too often at times.

"We almost get in trouble because we try to do it too much even if it's not there, because he has the ability to catch it really anywhere around the rim, around the backboard," Curry acknowledged. "You kind of see it developing when he gets a free lane to the rim, and as a passer in that situation literally feel the most confidence that if I just get it anywhere up there, he'll go get it, and usually he does."

With great efficiency, too.

In Game 3 against the Spurs, McGee scored a postseason-best 16 points, all in the first half to get Golden State going as Zaza Pachulia sat out with a bruised heel. He made all seven of his shots in Game 2 of a first-round win against Portland, shooting 18 for 23 in all in the four-game sweep of the Trail Blazers.

"That's my whole thing, I just try to be efficient out there," McGee said. "I don't try to do too much. I just try to do what's necessary for me in the minutes that I'm out there."

Livingston has unselfishly dealt with a diminished role, a rotation change late in the season that altered when he's used, and then a hand injury in the first round of the playoffs.

In February 2007 with the Clippers, Livingston tore three major ligaments in his knee—the anterior cruciate, posterior cruciate and medial collateral as well as his lateral meniscus, then required extensive surgery. Though the injury could have ended his career at age 21, he still believed he would play again. First he had to walk again.

"Shaun, that story isn't really the same now. He's become a staple of this franchise, he's helped us win a title, he's done some great things here," Draymond Green said. "For JaVale, it's still fresh, to where I think it's a great situation for him. He's finally been put in a position where he can do what he do. He's finally come to an organization, a first-class organization, that has embraced him for him and not tried to make him something that he's not. I think that has been pretty special, just seeing his growth over the course of the year, how he's been able to thrive. ... It's special to see when you take the path that they've taken to get to this moment."

McGee will have to help keep Cleveland's Tristan Thompson off the boards. His teammates know he's up to the task.

"It just speaks to his kind of character and perseverance and work ethic and his belief in himself that when he's out there on the floor he deserves to be out there on the floor, he belongs and can make an impact," Curry said. "When he showed up here, he understood the opportunity and he's taken full advantage of it. It's great to see."

Tiger Woods blames medications for his arrest on DUI charge

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Tiger Woods attributed an "unexpected reaction" to prescription medicine for his arrest on a DUI charge that landed him in a Florida jail Monday for nearly four hours.

Woods, the 14-time major champion who had back surgery five weeks ago, was arrested on suspicion of DUI at about 3 a.m. Monday and taken to Palm Beach County jail. He was released on his own recognizance.

An arrest report might be available on Tuesday, Jupiter Police spokeswoman Kristin Rightler said.

"I understand the severity of what I did and I take full responsibility for my actions," Woods said in a statement Monday evening. "I want the public to know that alcohol was not involved. What happened was an unexpected reaction to prescribed medications. I didn't realize the mix of medications had affected me so strongly."

Woods apologized to his family, friends and fans and said, "I expect more from myself, too."

"I will do everything in my power to ensure this never happens again," he said.

Woods, whose 79 victories rank No. 2 on the PGA Tour's career list, has not competed for nearly four months. He is out for the rest of the season while he recovers from fusion surgery performed April 20 in Texas.

In an update posted Wednesday on his website, he said the surgery provided instant relief from pain and that he hasn't "felt this good in years."

Police said Woods was arrested on Military Trail, a six-lane road, south of Indian Creek Parkway. Woods did not say in his statement where he had been or what he was doing at that hour. Jail records show that the 41-year-old was booked into jail at 7:18 a.m. and released at 10:50 a.m. The jail released a booking photo of Woods in a white T-shirt.

Rightler, the police spokeswoman, said she did not have details about the circumstances leading to Woods' arrest, nor did she have any information about whether the arrest involved drugs or alcohol.

His agent at Excel Sports, Mark Steinberg, did not respond to a voicemail from The Associated Press seeking comment. PGA Tour spokesman Ty Votaw said the tour would have no comment.

Woods said in his statement that he fully cooperated with law enforcement and thanked Jupiter Police and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for being professional.

AP
In this March 20, 2017, file photo, golfer Tiger Woods prepares to sign copies of his new book at a book signing in New York.

Notah Begay, a roommate of Woods when they played at Stanford, was empathetic. Begay was arrested for aggravated drunken driving in 2000 when he ran into a car outside a bar in New Mexico. He was sentenced to 364 days in jail, with all but seven days suspended.

"It's embarrassing for Tiger, something that you can't go back and change," Begay said on Golf Channel from the NCAA men's golf championship in Sugar Grove, Illinois, where he was working for the network. "I've been there myself. ... But it was a turning point in my life. Hopefully, it's something he'll learn from, grow from, take responsibility for and use it to make some changes."

Woods has not been seen at a golf tournament since he opened with a 77 at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic in February, withdrawing the next day because of back spasms. He was in Los Angeles for the Genesis Open, run by his Tiger Woods Foundation, but he did not come to the course at Riviera because of his back.

He was at the Masters, but only to attend the dinner for past champions.

Woods, who had been No. 1 longer than any other golfer, has not been a factor since his last victory in August 2013 as he battled through back surgeries from a week before the 2014 Masters until his most recent fusion surgery on his lower back a month ago.

It was the first time Woods has run into trouble off the golf course since he plowed his SUV into a tree and a fire hydrant outside his Windermere, Florida, home in the early morning after Thanksgiving in 2009, which led to revelations that he had multiple extramarital affairs.

3

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6-1, 6-3 victory over Tahiti's Kendra Paea and Silema Taufa to move into the title game. The Tahiti players earned the right to challenge Lee and Clark for the finals berth at the top half of the draw after downing the Solomon Islands' Georgemiah Row and Vinda Teally, 6-2, 7-5.

At the bottom half of the field, Carruthers and Schuster made it to the finals after pulling off a 4-6, 6-3, 10-4 win over No. 2 seed Seal Corbett and Craigie McCullough of Australia. The Aussie pair got an outright entry to the semis after drawing a bye, while the Samoan duo notched a Final Four berth following their 6-1, 6-0 victory against Fiji's Ruby Coffin and Vienna Kumar.

Meanwhile, Ji Min Woo and Conatsu Kaga joined the same tournament and won the boys 15 singles and girls doubles titles, respectively.

Woo, a finalist in 2017 West Pacific Regional Championships held early this month, was the No. 1 seed in the 16-player draw and swept all his three matches to rule the boys 15 singles, clinching the division crown after outlasting No. 2 seed Vanuatu's Maui Leflon, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3. The 14-year-old CNMI player bagged the finals berth at the upper half of the draw after eliminating Australia's Max Van Berkel, 6-2, 6-1, and Fiji's Abikash Kumar, 6-3, 6-2.

Leflon, on the other hand, foiled an all-CNMI title match after booting out Woo's teammate, Seung Jin Paik, in the semis game at the lower half of the draw, 6-4, 6-2. The No. 4 seed Paik marched into the semifinals after topping Fiji's Shantanu Shail, while Leflon followed suit as he beat Australia's Thomas Quayle, 6-1, 6-1.

In the girls 15 doubles, Conatsu and partner Zorika Morgan of the Solomon Islands were unbeaten in the round-robin contest to take the division championship. Conatsu and Morgan prevailed against the former's younger sister Coume and Prudence Bird, 9-2, and Tahiti's Penina Kamu and Fijis Tisha Vinod, 9-2. Coume and Bird earned the runner-up honors following their 9-4 triumph over Kamu and Vinod.

The Kaga siblings, Woo, and Paik will remain in Fiji to train and wait for the North Pacific Team (composed of CNMI, Guam, FSM, and Palau players) that will compete in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. Lee will also stay in Fiji to play in a couple of Juniors ITF Circuit ranking tournaments and will make a side trip to New Calendonia for a few more competitions.

Council gives Tonga short time to resolve hosting issues

The Pacific Games Council Executive Board met last May 16 to address the Tongan Government's letter of withdrawal from hosting the 2019 Pacific Games.

As part of its meeting, the Executive Board was addressed by Lord Vaea, acting president of TASANOC, and Lord Sevele, the chairman of the Tonga 2019 Pacific Games Organizing Committee.

The Executive Board resolved to make one last attempt to keep the 2019 Pacific Games in Tonga. In 2012, the PGC membership voted emphatically for Tonga to host these Games and the Executive Board remains confident that Tonga can successfully deliver the event should the government resume its support.

In the Pacific way, the Executive Board favors keeping the door open to the Tongan Government for a final short period to address its financial concerns with the PGC in the spirit of cooperation.

The PGC has previously written to the prime minister with this offer, but will now ask TASANOC to facilitate an appointment for PGC representatives to meet with him and the Cabinet in early June to begin a process of fully reviewing the Games' cost structures.

In the meantime, the Executive Board will advise its members that it has put contingency plans in place for the process of selecting an alternative host nation quickly in the event that matters with the Tongan Government are not fully resolved by June 30 this year. ***(PR)***

MHS

From Page 28

minute, Mareko Tekopua passed the ball to Belcher, who made a cross in between two SIS defenders for the go-ahead goal.

After regaining the lead, MHS kept playing steady defense, while on offense, Mareko Tekopua attempted a shot in front of Clayton Izuka and goalie Steven Goodwin. Tekopua missed, but the Dolphins got a break, as Izuka was called for a violation (intentionally preventing Tekopua from making the shot). Tenorio took the penalty kick and canned it in and a few seconds later, the match ended, giving MHS the boys division title.

In the girls finals, the Lady Dolphins were never threatened, leading 3-0, before Southern averted a shutout, thanks to Mary Kay Alferos' goal with just a minute left in the one-sided match.

Two minutes before Alferos broke the ice for the Lady Rays, Chloe Salvosa handed MHS its third goal, while the first two were courtesy of Katherine Magat. Magat drilled the pair in the first half and in a span of two minutes with her first recorded in the 22nd and the second in the 24th.

Perpetual and championship trophies were presented to MHS, while SIS and Southern also received runner-up plums. The Lady Geckos took the third place trophy for routing Kagman, 6-0, while MHS junior varsity also finished third in the boys division after dominating Kagman in similar scores.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta presented the awards to teams and to individual awardees—MHS' Tenorio and Diana Maniacop (Golden Boot) and Carla Ballesteros and Bucayo (Golden Glove).

BSI

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RBI double in the first; Peter Lieto made it home in the fourth off a sacrifice fly; and Henry Iguel's double brought J.J. Lifoifoi home in the seventh inning. The Falcons were then called for 1-2-3 in the last two innings, allowing the BSI Aces to take Game 1.

Dave Camacho closed out for the BSI Aces and gave up only two hits in the three innings he worked the mound, while starter Peter Tenorio yielded three.

The BSI Aces and Falcons arranged their best-of-five title showdown after sweeping their respective opponents. The Falcons, the last semis qualifiers, were the first to make it to the finals after completing an upset over pennant champion and erstwhile undefeated Go See Mark with a 6-5 victory last Wednesday. The BSI Aces then duplicated the Falcons' feat after downing 2016 champion Chalan Kanoa Bears in Game 2 last Thursday, 11-8.

A six-run top of the ninth inning helped the BSI Aces dethrone and eliminate the Bears, who clung to a 6-5 lead after eight complete innings. At the top of the ninth, the BSI Aces got two quick runs off the Bears' errors, while the four others were from two sacrifice flies, wild pitch, and an RBI walk.

Now behind, 11-6, the Bears remained in contention when their first two runners made it home of a sacrifice fly and fielder's choice with two outs. However, the BSI Aces would not be denied as closer Mike Iguel fanned out Henry Lizama to end the short semis series.

Meanwhile, Game 2 of the finals series will be played today, while Game 3 is set for Friday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	19	.604	—
Boston	27	23	.540	3
Baltimore	26	23	.531	3½
Tampa Bay	28	26	.519	4
Toronto	24	27	.471	6½

Central Division

Minnesota	26	21	.553	—
Cleveland	26	23	.531	1
Chicago	24	26	.480	3½
Detroit	24	27	.471	4
Kansas City	21	29	.420	6½

West Division

Houston	36	16	.692	—
Texas	25	27	.481	11
Los Angeles	26	29	.473	11½
Seattle	23	29	.442	13
Oakland	22	28	.440	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	31	19	.620	—
New York	22	27	.449	8½
Atlanta	22	27	.449	8½
Miami	20	30	.400	11
Philadelphia	17	32	.347	13½

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	24	.529	—
Chicago	25	25	.500	1½
St. Louis	24	24	.500	1½
Cincinnati	24	26	.480	2½
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	3½

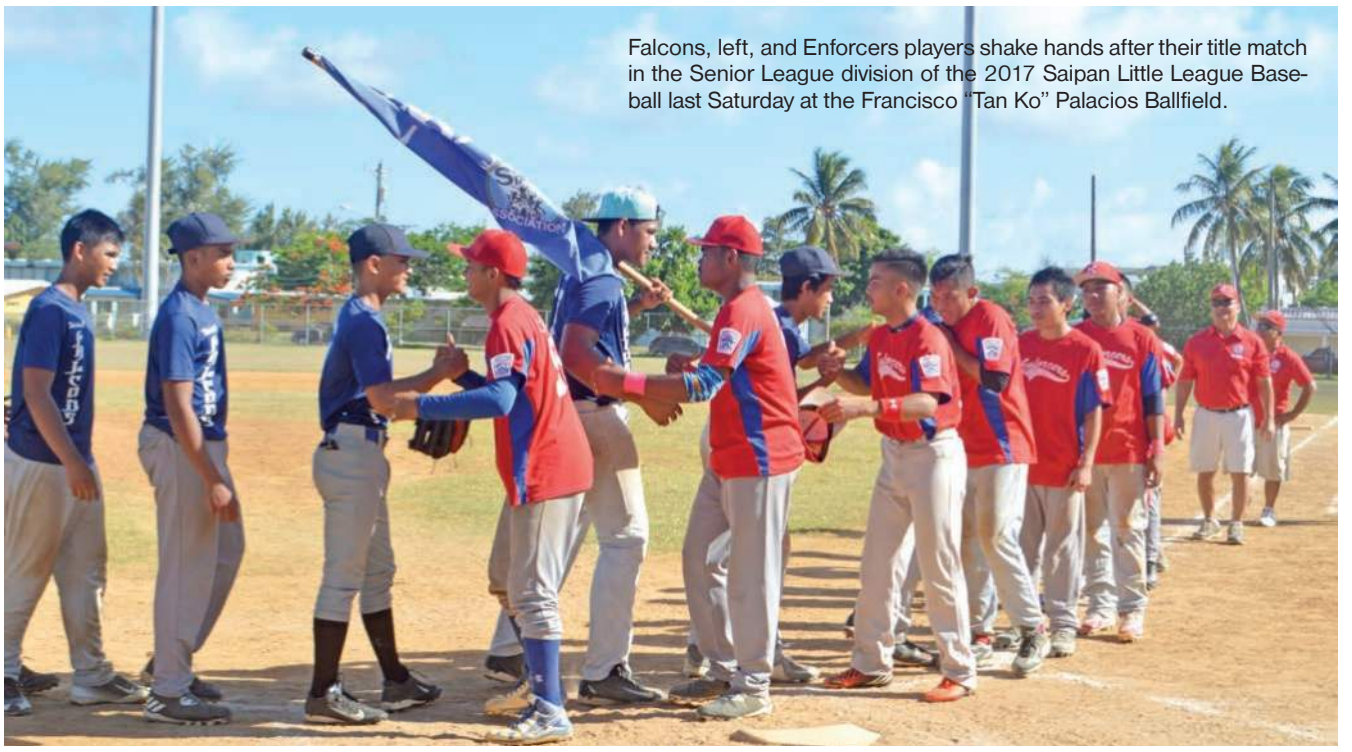
West Division

Colorado	33	20	.623	—
Los Angeles	32	20	.615	½
Arizona	31	22	.585	2
San Francisco	22	31	.415	11
San Diego	20	33	.377	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 SLLB Senior League Division Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



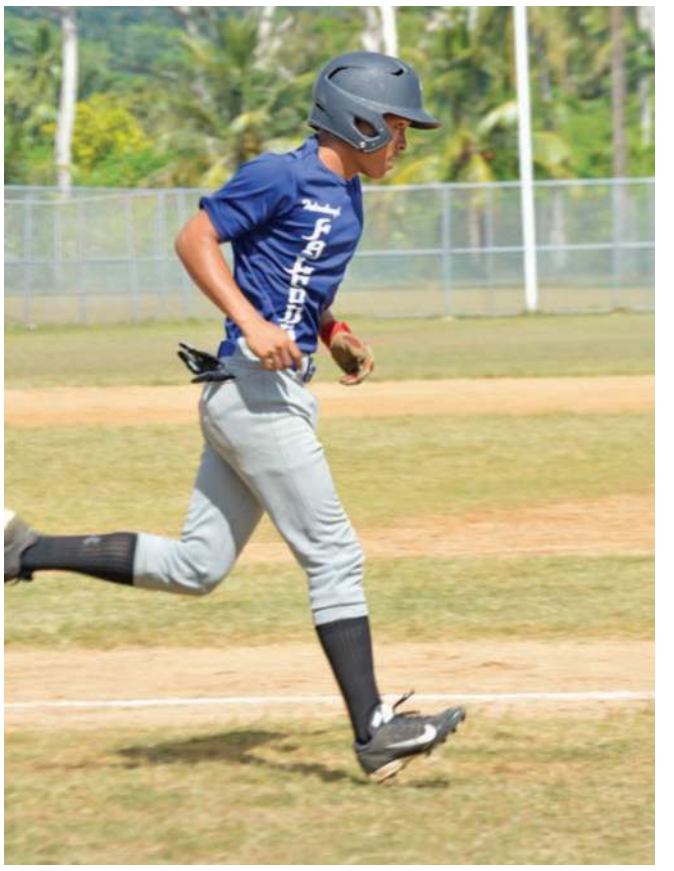
Falcons, left, and Enforcers players shake hands after their title match in the Senior League division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Enforcers players huddle before heading back to the field, while team official Lawrence Camacho looks on.

A Falcons batter attempts a bunt.

A Falcons batter waits for the pitch.

Enforcers catcher Jose Camacho throws the ball back to pitcher Tyrese Camacho.



A Falcons runner heads to first base.

Tyrese Camacho follows through after his pitch.

Falcons players and coaches acknowledge the crowd after their 4-3 win against the Enforcers.

Nationals win heated match against Giants

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cool Hand Lue: Cavs coach keeps NBA champs calm amid chaos

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MHS sweeps IFL titles

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School players and coaches pose with their awards after ruling the 2017 NMIFA-PSS High School Interscholastic Football League yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School went 2-for-2 in the championship games in the 2017 NMIFA-PSS High School Interscholastic Football League after beating Saipan International School and Saipan Southern High School yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

The Lady Dolphins were the first to hand their school the title after dominating the Lady Rays in the winner-take-all finale, 3-1. In the boys division, MHS needed extra time to pull off a 3-1 triumph over SIS.

Evan Terence Belcher scored in the second minute of the five-minute overtime to break the deadlock, while Sunjoon Tenorio converted a penalty kick in the closing seconds of the match to foil the Geckos' upset bid against the top-ranked Dolphins.

SIS forced the final game into overtime after Jeh Yuk Chung canned the equalizer five minutes before the 50-minute regulation time ended. Chung and Colin Ramsey chased the ball after a forward pass from one of their teammates and the former kicked in it before a surging MHS goalkeeper John Bucayo was able to block the leather.

Earlier in the 25th minute, Joshua Abragan found the back of the net to give the Dolphins the shaky 1-0 halftime lead.

At the resumption of the match, both teams were aggressive, but just could not complete their plays before Chung finally made things happen for the Geckos.

With the game tied, MHS and SIS had to play for five extra minutes. The Geckos then had a couple of opportunities to advance the ball, but the Dolphins' defense hung in there to frustrate SIS. Then in the 52nd

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3 junior players triumph in Fiji Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three junior players continue to make the CNMI proud with yet another successful run in an off-island tournament.

Fresh from her doubles title conquest in the RUC Tennis Junior Open in Casablanca, Morocco, Carol Lee added the doubles crown in the Fiji Tattslotto Open Tennis Championships 2017 to her growing collection.

The Commonwealth player teamed up with South Africa's Roxanne Clark in winning the women's open doubles championship of the oldest tennis tournament in Fiji played last week at the Fiji Denerau Golf and Racquet Club in Nadi. Lee and Clark, the top-ranked pair in the 110th staging of the annual competition, swept singles champion Steffie Carruthers and Eleanor Schuster of Samoa in the finals, 6-4, 6-0.

Lee and Clark, who are in Fiji training at the ITF/OTF regional facility, did not drop a single set en route to ruling the competitive women's doubles field. They first posted a

See 3 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Conatsu Kaga, seen here getting ready to serve during a local tournament last year, won the girls 15 doubles title (with Zorika Morgan) in the Fiji Open last week in Nadi.

BSI Aces win opener in SBL finals series

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The BSI Aces drew first blood against the Falcons after posting a 9-3 victory in Game 1 of their finals series in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The BSI Aces were on target in the first five innings to take control of the series opener and complemented their early offense with a strong defense, limiting the Falcons to no more than one run in each of the three innings the latter made it to the board.

Back-to-back three runs (third and fourth inning) turned the BSI Aces' precarious 2-1 lead to an 8-2 advantage and they kept the safe distance after holding the Falcons to one run in the last five innings. Mike Iguel had a two-run double at the bottom of the fourth and also scored off a Falcons error in the fourth and in the third from brother Jesus' RBI walk. The BSI Aces' two other runs in the third inning also came off RBI walks, while the first two runs were courtesy of Ben Jones' RBI single each. A solo homer from Nokkie Saralu at the bottom of the fifth inning gave the BSI Aces their last run.

The Falcons, on the other hand, scored one run off Damien Pua's

See BSI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The BSI Aces' Jesus Iguel practices his swing while waiting for his turn at bat during Game 2 of their semis series against the Chalan Kanoa Bears in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.